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August 5, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Jessica since she served as a legal intern with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives during the summer of 2007. Jessica and I worked closely on several critical pieces of legislation, and I had extensive opportunity to evaluate her performance. I can think of no other intern for whom I would be more honored to write a letter of recommendation.

Jessica is a bright, extremely capable young woman who demonstrates tremendous passion and cool judgment. Upon meeting Jessica, one cannot help but be struck by her sincerity and readiness to roll up her sleeves and make an impact on the work before her. Jessica assisted me with several legislative projects that were personal priorities of our late Chairman, Tom Lantos. Mr. Lantos was the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress, and, as the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor, Jessica was eager to advance Mr. Lantos' agenda of human rights and democracy promotion.

Jessica first assisted me on a project regarding misuse of the Russian prosecutorial system for political purposes. I was immediately impressed with Jessica's quick mastery of the subject matter and nimble political assessments. She untangled under a difficult time constraint the complex international enforcement issues that were of interest to the Committee, and on her own initiative, set out a course for the Committee to pursue in order to address key issues. After a few days, I sensed that we had a special intern on our hands.

Jessica's outstanding qualities could best be summarized by one word: commitment. She is motivated by a bona fide interest in pursuing justice.

Jessica demonstrates uncommon poise and grit. Jessica labored through several extremely challenging issues and emerged with the kudos of our entire staff. One issue Jessica addressed near single-handedly was terrorism compensation. The Committee had been asked to draft legislation on behalf of victims whose loved ones had been killed in the 1998 Al Qaida bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa. Meanwhile, the State Department, for a variety of reasons, was not eager to see the legislation move forward. At the direction of the Chief Counsel, Jessica met with the bereaved families in a sensitive, poised manner, to learn of their

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interest in additional compensation from the U.S. Government for their losses. She then helped organize a meeting with representatives of the State Department to solicit their views. I supervised Jessica in her drafting of a complex piece of legislation to address both parties' concerns. Where others might have simply turned the project over or threw their hands up in frustration, Jessica worked through the substantive and political complexities and produced a viable legislative product. We wound up introducing the bill two months later, and it passed the House overwhelmingly.

Because of Jessica's demonstrative presence, I had no hesitation asking her to join me in meetings with senior Congressional staff. She was not afraid to express her viewpoint and proved herself a valuable presence. In summary, Jessica very much stands out among her colleagues.

Jessica is one of those rare individuals who possesses terrific interpersonal skills and disciplined research abilities. A two month internship period ordinarily does not afford one much time to engage in sustained and intensive research projects, but Jessica defied common practice. At the commencement of her internship, I mentioned to Jessica an interest in issues related to Congressional war powers. Amidst numerous projects Jessica took on, she volunteered to examine several key issues regarding Executive authority to wage war. Jessica provided me regular updates of her research, and, at the end of her summer, produced a memo that serves as the basis for my current thinking on the issue.

Jessica is a warm, personable individual. She brings a sense of energy to a room, and I appreciate how she makes others feel comfortable around her. Simultaneously, Jessica demonstrates remarkable seriousness with regard to her work. She is purposeful yet casual, a wonderful combination of talents. I strongly recommend her.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Daniel Silverberg
Deputy Chief Counsel