

HSGAC Nominations Hearing: OPM Director and OMB DDM
Ranking Member Senator Gary Peters Opening Statement
April 3, 2025
As Prepared for Delivery

Today we are considering nominees for two positions that are critical to the federal workforce.

Before discussing these nominees though, I must raise the issue that we have all heard about regarding this Administration's use of unofficial messaging apps and non-government email addresses to discuss official and highly sensitive information related to national security. This committee has jurisdiction over federal government cybersecurity and federal records retention laws, and Mr. Chairman I encourage you to hold a hearing on this important issue.

Now, turning to today's hearing, let me be clear – for the past two-and-a-half months this Administration has engaged in an unprecedented assault on federal workers across government.

The Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management – along with Elon Musk and DOGE – have been at the center of the Administration's reckless approach to eliminating programs and personnel.

OMB and OPM have led efforts to indiscriminately fire tens of thousands of probationary employees – including long-time public servants who were recently promoted due to exemplary performance.

The Administration has engaged in mass firings without any analysis of the impact to services and programs communities across the nation rely on.

This includes eliminating entire offices dedicated to fighting infectious diseases, ensuring the safety of infant formula, technology modernization, public transparency, and civil rights.

Just last week, the President unilaterally stripped longstanding collective bargaining rights from one and a half million workers across the federal government.

These are not actions that will make the government more efficient or accountable.

These are actions that will cause permanent damage to agencies and their ability to effectively serve the American people.

Past administrations have pursued reforms, restructurings, and reductions in force – aimed at saving taxpayers' money and increasing efficiency.

But what has been happening since January is destruction for the sake of destruction. Not only are some of these actions chaotic and senseless, but many have also been found by courts to be illegal.

Mr. Kupor and Mr. Ueland – I appreciated meeting with each of you to discuss these concerns.

While there is a lot we may disagree on, I believe we share some of the same goals – including attracting and retaining top talent to serve in the federal workforce.

I am deeply concerned about how the administration’s actions will undermine our ability to attract the best and brightest to work in the federal government.

Americans are watching as federal workers – some who have dedicated their careers to public service – find out they are fired from a Friday night email or when they show up to work and are turned away by security.

People considering entering the civil service are hearing top officials in the Administration demonize federal workers and promise to put them “in trauma.”

Some of the most successful and innovative recruitment programs have been halted.

This is not the way to attract the next generation of talented and dedicated public servants.

I have repeatedly called on the Administration to explain and justify their actions. But I have received no engagement from the current leadership at OMB and OPM, no information in response to oversight requests, no attempt to work with Congress on thoughtful, bipartisan reforms.

Mr. Ueland, you have been serving at OMB since January. I hope you will be transparent with us today and provide some answers about the Administration’s recent actions.

Mr. Kupor, if confirmed, you will lead the agency responsible for driving personnel policy across government. I hope to hear from you today about how things will change under your leadership and how you will work with Congress and this committee to pursue reforms in a thoughtful and collaborative manner.

I look forward to a productive discussion with you both.