

Written Testimony of Robert Law
Nominee for Under Secretary of Strategy, Policy, and Plans
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Before the
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
June 5, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, and distinguished Members of the Committee. It is an honor for me to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the third Under Secretary of Strategy, Policy, and Plans of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Noem for the trust and confidence that they have placed in me, and I thank the Committee for considering my nomination. I am hopeful that I can earn your vote and, if confirmed, I look forward to working with the esteemed members of this Committee.

There is perhaps no higher privilege than serving the American people. I come from a family steeped with public service experience, including at the federal, state, and local levels of government and in our armed services. The opportunity to return to DHS after serving in several leadership roles during President Trump's first term has been an honor. But, it would not be possible for me to be here today without the love, support, and patience of my family and friends.

While there are many people I credit for my professional and personal development, my bedrock is my wife, Torrey. She is not someone who seeks out the spotlight, but I want you to know that she is highly accomplished in her professional field, is an incredible mother and role model to our daughters, and is my closest confidant. Today is our 15th wedding anniversary, and I appreciate her graciously allowing me to share this day with you. I would also like to introduce my two wonderful daughters, Alexandra and Josephine, who are missing school today in order to support their daddy. They also know that ice cream is in their future if they behave during the hearing; a special treat I am confident they will earn. I would also like to acknowledge my younger brother, Jim, who generously took the day off of work to support me here today, as well as my parents who are not able to be here in person.

I am also truly humbled by the number of my friends and colleagues who are here today to support me, and I want to extend my appreciation to the Committee staff members I met with on Friday. We had a very productive conversation, and I look forward to the opportunity to meet with the Members of this Committee in the coming weeks.

My call to public service is rooted in the tragic events of September 11, 2001—a day that forever changed our Nation. I grew up just outside of Washington, D.C. and vividly remember watching the terrorist attacks on a television in my first period classroom. Many classmates lost loved ones when one of the planes slammed into the Pentagon and all of us were scared, angry, confused, or some combination of those feelings. I am part of a generation of Americans that had their late teenage and early adulthood years defined by the worst terrorist attack in our Nation's history. I am drawn to the mission of DHS because it was created as our Nation's response to ensure that another 9/11 never happens again.

If confirmed, I will have the tremendous responsibility of developing and implementing President Trump's and Secretary Noem's policies to protect the homeland, secure the borders, and make American communities safe again.

I believe that I am a natural fit for the role of Under Secretary because I have spent nearly my entire professional career in policymaking positions. Most directly relevant is my tenure as the Chief of the Office of Policy & Strategy at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, where I led a team of approximately 130 policymakers and managed an annual budget of approximately \$24 million. This experience gave me direct insight into DHS processes and procedures but also afforded me the opportunity to expose inefficiencies and streamline the regulatory and policymaking process. In that role, I learned first-hand how the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans can work effectively with a component, as well as where that relationship was unsuccessful. I realized that a strong relationship between the Office and components is essential to mission success across DHS and to keep America safe.

In my current role as Senior Counselor to Secretary Noem, I have gained a greater appreciation of the Office's mandate, and I have a clear vision for elevating its effectiveness. Additionally, I had the distinction of playing a leading role in the DHS transition effort, including leading the landing team as we prepared for President Trump's return to the White House.

I am seeking your consent to become the Under Secretary because I view the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans as the central nervous system of the Department that is responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing all of the policies that protect the homeland. DHS has more than 20 operational components and each require clear policies to guide their functions. While border security and immigration play a large role in making America safe again, the Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans is charged with effectuating many of President Trump's top priorities including cybersecurity, trade and economic security, counterterrorism, screening and vetting, countering the threat of unmanned aerial systems, and protecting the nation's critical infrastructure.

During my time at DHS, I have gotten to know many of the policy staff, and I am truly impressed by the professionalism of those who work tirelessly every day to protect our homeland. It would be an honor to lead this team.

If confirmed, I am confident that I will further enhance the office's effectiveness, deliver short- and medium- term goals, and establish a strategic long-term vision that will solidify the Office of

Strategy, Policy, and Plans as Secretary Noem's greatest asset for delivering President Trump's homeland security legacy.

Thank you for considering my nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.