

**Statement of Markwayne Mullin
Nominee, Secretary of Homeland Security**

U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs

March 18, 2026

Chairman Paul, Ranking Member Peters, members of the committee—

I am truly humbled to accept this nomination.

First, I want to thank my wife, Christie, and our six wonderful children. Christie is the light of my life. We've been married for 28 years. None of this would have been possible without God in our lives, and her by my side. We are truly blessed to have our six children taking this adventure with us.

We say in our family: we are all one tribe. We take the ups and the downs together but we're always in it together. Our kids have all heard me say— "you're never going to change anything you're willing to tolerate." It's how we live our lives, AND it's how we approach public life.

The Department of Homeland Security is bigger than any political party. Regardless of whether or not you support me, if I'm confirmed, I'll fight for your family just as I'll fight for mine.

Of course, I want to thank President Donald Trump. In a matter of months, President Trump delivered the most secure border in American history. We're deporting violent criminals, enforcing the law, and putting the American people first. I am deeply grateful for President Trump's trust in me to lead the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It's humbling.

If you were to tell me, years ago, as a kid from Westville—with a speech impediment—that he would one day be called to serve Oklahoma in the U.S. House, then the Senate, then be asked to serve in the president's cabinet— I never would have believed you. My story has only been possible because we live in America—the greatest nation on Earth—which we are proud to call our home.

Make no mistake, I'm clear-eyed about the challenges ahead of us.

If confirmed, I will support President Trump's mission to safeguard the American people and defend the homeland. The importance of the mission at the Department of Homeland Security in this current moment cannot be overstated. The threat environment is high, and America's adversaries seek to undermine us both at home and abroad. Our law enforcement, preparedness, and intelligence agencies must be operating at the highest level. Thankfully, we have the right Commander in Chief at the helm.

I'll have three areas of focus at DHS: First, I'll protect the homeland for everybody. Second, I will bring a commonsense approach. Third, I'll enforce the law.

Remember: if confirmed, I cannot pick and choose which laws to enforce.

I want to say: the employees across DHS, including the Coast Guard, TSA, Secret Service, ICE, and Border Patrol (just to name a few) – you all do a fantastic job keeping our nation safe.

Unfortunately, DHS is STILL, as we all know, shut down. We owe it to these employees to get DHS funded again.

Right now, 260,000 employees and their families are working without pay. We've heard stories of parents struggling to afford basic needs. I want to speak to the public servants at DHS for a moment: First, thank you for defending our national security and protecting the homeland 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Second, the fact that you continue to show up and do your job without pay says a lot about your character, AND the caliber of people who work alongside you at DHS. My friends in front of me, please end this partisan fight.

To the people we have working for DHS: I'm proud of your hard work during this shutdown. We owe it to the DHS employees and their families to do our jobs and fund the Department of Homeland immediately.

If confirmed, the dedicated men and women who work at all 22 agencies within the Department of Homeland Security will know I'll fight alongside you every day to protect our homeland.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you.

I look forward to answering your questions.