

“The Nomination of Joseph Cuffari to be Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security”

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
March 5, 2019**

As prepared for delivery:

Today the Committee is meeting to consider the nomination of Dr. Joseph Cuffari to be Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

The DHS Inspector General leads an office of 715 employees with an annual budget of \$168 million to conduct independent audits and investigations related to all DHS programs. Inspectors General serve multiple constituencies. For their departments, they conduct inspections and investigations that are necessary for complex agencies like DHS to operate more effectively, with greater integrity and accountability. For Congress, they provide independent and unbiased perspectives on a full range of programs and issues that inform congressional oversight. And to the American public, they are the independent watchdogs providing transparency to reveal, and therefore help minimize, waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Dr. Joseph Cuffari has lived a lifetime of public service, including decades of experience in government oversight and investigations. He began his career as an enlisted member of the United States Air Force, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel before retiring from the National Guard. He previously served in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General, and the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. If confirmed, I look forward to working with him to ensure the integrity of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Inspector General.

I'd like to thank the nominee for choosing to continue his life of public service in this important position, and I look forward to hearing your testimony.