

**“Nomination of Christopher C. Krebs to be Under Secretary,
National Protections and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security”**

Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson

April 25, 2018

As prepared for delivery:

Good morning. We are here to consider the nomination of Christopher Krebs to be the Under Secretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate within the Department of Homeland Security.

A top priority for the Committee is to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the tools and resources in place to effectively secure our nation. That starts with leadership. I am pleased that our Committee has worked in a bipartisan manner to confirm key leadership posts at the Department, during the past and current administrations.

Mr. Krebs is nominated to fulfill a critical position within the Department of Homeland Security. The National Protection and Programs Directorate oversees a wide range of programs and responsibilities to help secure our nation, including:

- Cybersecurity programs that secure federal civilian agency networks, provide services to and support the private sector, and facilitate information sharing with partners;
- Critical infrastructure protection, including working with 16 sectors of industry;
- Emergency communications, such as providing support after disasters;
- Securing the nation’s federal buildings by managing the Federal Protective Service;
- Regulating chemical facility security; and
- Managing the Office of Biometric Identify Management.

Needless to say, leading NPPD is a difficult job. As the Committee has heard at several hearings, the nation faces serious cyber-related threats—including nation-state cyber threats against our public and private sector networks. If confirmed, Mr. Krebs will be on the front line of the effort.

Mr. Krebs' experience, which includes both public and private sector work—including serving in a senior position with Microsoft—should serve him well as he takes on the ever-present challenge of mitigating risks to our nation's critical infrastructure. The Committee has heard how the private sector is best positioned to innovate and distribute products and services that will protect us against malicious cyber-attacks. I hope Mr. Krebs will challenge the Department to consider how the federal government can do more to support its partners in the private sector.

This Committee has consistently sought to assist the Department in focusing its cybersecurity and infrastructure protection mission. We included language to reform and rename the National Protection Program Directorate in our bipartisan DHS Authorization bill. More work is needed, and I look forward to partnering with Mr. Krebs to strengthen the Department's cybersecurity and infrastructure protection capabilities.