

**U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Nomination of Christopher Krebs to be Under Secretary, National Protection
and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

**April 25, 2018
Ranking Member Claire McCaskill**

Opening Statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I appreciate you holding this hearing and I want to thank you, Mr. Krebs, for your willingness to serve.

Today we convene to provide advice and consent for the President's nominee to be Under Secretary of the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) at the Department of Homeland Security.

NPPD is the DHS component responsible for cybersecurity and infrastructure coordination and protection. The name doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, but we're working on that. This Committee recently passed historic legislation reauthorizing DHS for the first time since its creation, and included in that bill was a measure to rename and reorganize NPPD, transforming it into the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). I'm hopeful that we can soon make that adjustment law.

While the current name of the Directorate sounds boring and uninspiring, the work NPPD does could not be more important. America continues to face significant threats to our critical infrastructure, both digitally and physically. Earlier this month, we heard from FEMA Director Brock Long about the

Administration's efforts to ensure that our communities are prepared for natural disasters that threaten lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure across the country. At our cybersecurity hearing yesterday, witnesses spoke about the myriad cyber threats facing our nation, including the continuing efforts of foreign actors to undermine our democracy. Yesterday the witnesses also discussed the tools we have in place and under development to tackle those problems and keep our systems and Americans safe. NPPD, and the dedicated women and men who work there, are an essential part of that solution.

I am looking forward to hearing from Mr. Krebs today about his vision for NPPD if he is confirmed by the Senate.

Since last summer, Mr. Krebs has been working two jobs at DHS. He is the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Infrastructure Protection, and simultaneously has been leading NPPD as the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary (SOPDUS). Like NPPD, SOPDUS is also a mouthful, but this hearing is an effort to streamline that title, too.

Mr. Krebs has a lot of experience advising private sector and government officials on cybersecurity and risk management issues. This is his second stint at DHS, having previously served in the George W. Bush Administration as a policy advisor overseeing international infrastructure protection efforts and developing the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. He re-joined

DHS in March 2017, initially serving as Senior Counselor to Secretary Kelly on cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and national resilience issues. Prior to that, Mr. Krebs worked in a variety of cyber-related positions outside of government, most recently as the Director for Cybersecurity Policy at Microsoft. Because the majority of critical infrastructure in this country is owned and operated by the private sector, NPPD must coordinate and work well with non-government entities. I'm encouraged that Mr. Krebs' unique experience both inside and outside DHS will be an asset to the Directorate.

Mr. Krebs has an impressive resume and background that I believe will enable him to thrive as Under Secretary for NPPD. Given the significant challenges and threats facing our country, it's long overdue that we have someone officially in the Under Secretary role leading this component. I welcome Mr. Krebs' testimony regarding this important post.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.