

Senator Gary C. Peters Prepared Remarks

“The Nomination of Ronald D. Vitiello to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Richard S. Tischner, Jr. to be Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia”

November 15, 2018

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I appreciate you holding this hearing and I want to start by thanking the nominees for their willingness to serve and for their lifetimes of public service. You have both spent over thirty years in service to your country and I want to thank you for that commitment.

Mr. Vitiello, today we convene to consider your nomination to lead a critical team responsible for enforcing our laws and promoting the safety and security of our homeland. As the Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), you will lead thousands of public servants who put their lives on the line and dedicate their lives to protect us.

If confirmed, you will not only lead the men and women of ICE, but you will also have to make tough decisions every day that prioritize ICE’s resources. You will set and implement policies that determine who to arrest, who to detain, and which investigations to pursue. It will be up to you to make sure that the safety of Americans does not take a back seat to talking points.

As Congress and members of this Committee, we have the important role of conducting oversight. We have a responsibility to ask hard questions and ensure that each federal agency is acting in accordance with the law and in the best interests of the American people.

If confirmed, I hope that you too will ask hard questions about how ICE is using its resources to ensure the safety of all Americans.

Moreover, if confirmed you will be in charge of advocating priorities for your department. You will be where the buck stops for ensuring that national security and public safety come first at ICE. I look forward to your testimony.

Mr. Tischner, I also look forward to hearing from you. The position that you have been nominated to is an important one—critical to protecting public safety and reducing recidivism in the District of Columbia.

If confirmed, you will be taking on a tremendously difficult task. In addition to maintaining effective partnerships amid both federal and local bureaucracies, CSOSA must tackle barriers to successful reentry—drug addiction, mental health, affordable housing, and job training, just to name a few.

These are some of the most profound challenges facing communities across the country today, and they are only one piece of fulfilling CSOSA's mission. I look forward to hearing from you about your plans to improve performance and increase accountability at CSOSA.