

**Statement of Claire M. Grady
Before the
U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
On Her Nomination to Serve as
Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security**

June 28, 2017

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, and distinguished Members of this Committee, it is an honor to appear before you as the President's nominee to be the Under Secretary for Management for the Department of Homeland Security. I am grateful to the President, Secretary Kelly and Deputy Secretary Duke for the trust and confidence they have placed in me.

I would like to thank the Members of this Committee and their staffs for the important work you do. I appreciated the opportunity to speak with several of you to discuss the matters of particular importance to you regarding the management operations of the Department of Homeland Security. For those of you I have not yet had the privilege to meet during this process, if confirmed, I look forward to the opportunity to do so in the near future.

I would also like to thank the many current and former employees of the Department who have contacted me throughout this process to offer their support and encouragement. It is truly the men and women of DHS who ensure mission success, frequently working very long hours and overcoming challenging circumstances to do so. There is no more dedicated or talented group of professionals anywhere in the world, and their outreach and expressions of support have been both humbling and inspiring.

Before I speak further about the important work the Department does to safeguard our nation, I'd like to express my gratitude to the friends and family who were able to attend in person to support me today, including: my mother, Mary Grady, my aunt and uncle, Helen and Vincent Walters, my son-in-law, Lieutenant Michael Berl, my oldest sister Kelly Grady and her husband Michael Zuckerman, and Maggie Meisberger, the oldest of my five nieces - each of whom is amazing in their own right. I would also like to acknowledge my husband, Colonel Rick Cornelio, who, as always, has my back. I am so proud of him and his service to our nation, first during his 34 years on active duty in the Air Force and now as a civil servant. His love and support have been unwavering. With three simple words "not big enough", he reminds me that while challenges may be serious and daunting, they still can be tackled.

More than 15 years after 9/11, the threats to our nation, our people and our way of life remain. The world is a dangerous place and the velocity of those threats is ever changing and accelerating. Round the clock, whether at a computer, in our communities, at an airport, in a port, at sea, at a desk, in the air, in the classroom, on the border, in a command center, or in a lab, the professionals of DHS valiantly serve our nation and keep us safe. They have committed themselves to thwarting our nation's adversaries (natural or man-made) in an environment where a single incident can have devastating consequences. And if tragedy were to befall our nation,

they are prepared to respond and aid in the recovery. I can think of no greater honor than to be considered for a position to help these dedicated men and women safeguard our nation by strengthening and integrating the Department's management functions.

Let me share some information about my professional background. I am a career Federal civil servant and have had the privilege of supporting our nation for more than 25 years. I started as a GS-7 intern, progressed through positions of increasing responsibility and scope, and have been a member of the Senior Executive Service for over a decade. I served in senior positions at the component and headquarters level of two agencies, the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, leading large, diverse, and geographically dispersed workforces to deliver results.

Currently, I am the Department of Defense Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, responsible for over 30,000 procurement professionals throughout the world, who, in 2017, did brilliant work in obligating \$297 billion in support of the warfighter. I also advise senior DoD leadership on acquisition strategies for major defense acquisition programs and major automated information systems. Prior to this, I proudly worked at DHS for nearly ten years, with assignments at both headquarters and one of DHS' operational components, the United States Coast Guard. During my tenure at the Coast Guard, I played key roles in several important changes, including the stand-up of the Coast Guard acquisition directorate and Coast Guard modernization, which realigned the organization to maximize the operational effectiveness and value delivered to the nation.

My parents raised me to value hard work, discipline, and perseverance. They instilled in me the expectation that when things get difficult, it is our obligation to help our family, friends, neighbors and strangers - to take on the tough challenges and make things better. I was never more aware of this responsibility than when presented with the opportunity to be considered for this position. I recognize the many challenges DHS faces: the diverse mission set, myriad stakeholders; complex oversight; and the urgency and criticality of the work itself. I know none of this is easy. But, I am impressed by the progress that has been made through the efforts of not just a few, but a multitude of people at every level within the Department.

If confirmed, I would be committed to building on the great things that are underway throughout DHS, striving for excellence in all areas of mission support and delivering maximum value for every dollar entrusted to the Department. I would welcome the opportunity to engage collaboratively with Members of this Committee and other Members of Congress to assist and inform their important work of oversight and support for the Department. Finally, I would be dedicated to ensuring a culture of respect and professionalism; the dedicated men and women of DHS and our nation deserve nothing less.

If confirmed, I look forward to returning to the Department and re-joining the nearly 240,000 outstanding security professionals that are DHS.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.