

Nomination Hearing Testimony
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Nominee, Inspector General, U.S. Office of Personnel Management
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
March 10, 2022

Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am grateful to the President for the honor of being nominated to be the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Today, I am joined by my husband Thomas, who has been an unwavering source of loving support. My son and two stepdaughters are currently in middle school: Nick, Rachel, and Megan. I am fortunate to have the support of my family and friends, including my extended families in South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana. I have been deeply moved by the support I have received from former and current colleagues from both sides of the aisle, Members of Congress, and many people I have worked with throughout my career.

I have always felt a calling to public service, following the example set by my parents and grandparents. My mother is a nurse practitioner who dedicated her career to mental health, helping those who are often forgotten by society. My father, a doctor, used his expertise to improve care for veterans at the VA hospital in my hometown of Tampa, Florida.

In college, I had the privilege of interning for Senator Connie Mack, helping with the consideration of potential nominees for military service academies. That experience led me to work in Congress, which I have now done for over two decades. My first job was in this building serving as Counsel for the late Senator Max Cleland, who served on this Committee.

For the last 19 years, I have served as a Counsel on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. I am currently the Chief Counsel for Oversight and Policy and I previously served as General Counsel.

My work for the Committee has been focused on uncovering waste, fraud, and abuse in government as well as enacting policy reforms to make government more accountable and effective. I have led and managed many bipartisan investigations into issues such as wasteful spending, misconduct by government employees, whistleblower retaliation, and agency mismanagement. One recent investigation led to a defense contractor repaying the government over \$16 million as well as the implementation of reforms at the Department of Defense.

I have extensive experience working on good government reforms including legislation enacted with bipartisan partnership from this Committee. For example, I helped lead bipartisan efforts to enact the Inspector General Empowerment Act, which enhanced the authorities of Inspectors General.

I believe that oversight makes government more accountable and effective. I believe that oversight of OPM is particularly important because the agency sets policies and administers benefits for millions of federal employees and retirees. The success of OPM drives the success of the entire federal government.

Federal employees, including those at OPM, come to government out of a calling to public service – forgoing what would be higher pay for many in the private sector. These employees, as well as American taxpayers, deserve to have an agency, and a government, that functions effectively and efficiently.

If confirmed, one of my top priorities would be conducting rigorous oversight of OPM's information technology (IT) modernization and cybersecurity efforts. Issues related to OPM's outdated IT systems are a common thread throughout recent work by the OPM Office of the Inspector General (OIG) as well as the Government Accountability Office.

Another one of my top priorities, if confirmed, would be to press OPM to address the nearly 400 open recommendations from the OPM OIG that are over six months old.

The OPM OIG performs a variety of critical oversight functions, such as identifying and recovering tens of millions of dollars in improper payments each year. If confirmed, I would ensure that important work continues.

I have had the opportunity to work with Inspectors General regularly throughout my career. I understand how important it is to the work of Congress, including this Committee, for Inspectors General to be responsive and transparent. If confirmed, I commit to working with each of you to ensure that I understand your priorities and am addressing the agency's most significant challenges.

I commit to operating in an independent, objective, transparent, and accountable manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee. I appreciate your consideration.