

MSPB NOMINATION HEARING TESTIMONY

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MEMBER (TO BE DESIGNATED VICE CHAIRMAN)
U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
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Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Heitkamp, and the rest of the members of the Committee and its staff:

I would like to thank you for having me here today. I would also like to thank President Trump for nominating me to this position. To my wife Kira, our two daughters, my parents and the rest of my family, I would like to thank you for your love and support during this process. I would also like to acknowledge the friends, co-workers, and former colleagues who have sent well-wishes and congratulations. Last, but not least, I would like to thank acting Chairman of the MSPB Mark Robbins and his staff for their tremendous assistance in preparing for this hearing.

First, I would like to tell the Committee a little about myself. I was born in a place called Clarksburg, West Virginia where my father owned a small men's clothing store that was originally opened by my great-grandfather, an Italian immigrant. A few years after I was born, my dad closed up the store and my family moved out of town. We eventually settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, where my dad continued to work in retail and my mom worked as a teacher, primarily at a Catholic elementary school. My father is the hardest working person I know. He would regularly work 70-80 hours a week, 6-7 days a week, to provide for our family. With his work schedule, my mom had to do the bulk of managing our household, which she did wonderfully while balancing her own career.

As an attorney working for the Social Security Administration and as a Federal employee, I have always tried to keep in mind that my salary is paid by the taxes of people like my parents. People who go to work everyday, work hard, and expect their government to be responsive and efficient. These people, the American people, deserve a Federal government with the best workforce possible. I believe that the MSPB plays a crucial role in achieving this goal. The MSPB helps ensure that all personnel decisions are based on merit, it helps protect whistleblowers and our veterans, it keeps the federal workforce free of partisan political activity and so much more.

In my opinion, the MSPB fulfills its mission best when it applies the relevant legal authorities as they are written and does not stray beyond its statutory mandates. The job of the MSPB is not to

favor one side versus the other, it is to protect our civil service *system* by reviewing the facts and applying the law in a neutral and fair way. When it performs its functions properly, the MSPB is one of the most important entities in achieving a Federal government that works best for the American people.

I am ready for the important job of serving on the MSPB. For nearly 10 years I have been immersed in the many complicated issues Federal agencies face. I have litigated employment law cases in many forums, including before the MSPB. I have provided legal advice on a wide variety of issues, and trained agency managers on some of the many laws they must be aware of when managing employees. I believe this experience will serve me well, if I am confirmed to the MSPB.

I am excited about this opportunity, and if the Senate confirms me, it would be an honor to serve in such an important position in our government. I will now make myself available to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you.