

**Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
Mr. Richard L. Revesz
Nominee to be Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
September 29, 2022**

Chairman Peters, Ranking Member Portman, and Members of the Committee—

It is a privilege to come before you as President Biden's nominee to be the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for considering my nomination, the members who took the time to speak to me before this hearing, and the staff for their help and guidance throughout this process. And I am enormously grateful to the President for the trust reflected by this nomination. I am deeply honored and humbled.

As I was growing up in Argentina during the very turbulent 1960s and 1970s, when democratic rule was routinely interrupted by coups and deadly political violence, I could have never imagined that I would be sitting in this chair one day. I grew up speaking Spanish and learned English as a second language. I came to the United States to go to college in 1975 when I was 17. I arrived two weeks before the beginning of my freshman year at Princeton, as Argentina was entering a six-year period during which between 10,000 and 30,000 people were killed through government-led violence in a country with a tenth the population of the United States. I am so grateful for the academic excellence that the United States offered me and for the safe haven it provided me during this time of turbulence.

The United States has given me extraordinary opportunities. I became a U.S. citizen in 1982, when I was a second-year law student. Only two-and-a-half years later, I came to Washington, D.C. to serve as a law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall, which was an honor of a lifetime.

I am enormously proud of my family members and deeply grateful for their extraordinary support. My wife, Vicki Been, to whom I have been married for almost 33 years, is my colleague on the NYU Law School faculty. For six of the last eight years, she served in New York City government, first as Commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and then as Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development. My son, Joshua Revesz, is a lawyer in the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. My daughter, Mira Revesz, could not be here because she is a high school English teacher in Massachusetts and has a full day of classes today. And my daughter in law, Hilary Ledwell, recently left the Department of Homeland Security to serve as a judicial law clerk. I very much admire the commitment to public service that each of them displays in their endeavors and hope to emulate it if I am confirmed.

I am sad that my parents are both deceased and could not accompany me today. My father, Nicolas Revesz, was displaced by the Holocaust in Eastern Europe and, at a relatively young age, had to cope with the murder of both his parents and five of his seven sisters at Auschwitz. He died when I was only eight years old. My mother, Nora Revesz, was also displaced by World

War II and its aftermath. After a round-about journey, she became a U.S. citizen and got to see the unfolding of a significant portion of my legal career.

During my 37 years as a law professor, I have worked extensively on areas related to government regulation. The bulk of my work has been on environmental, health, and safety regulation, but I have dealt with other regulatory areas as well. I have also focused on the structure of the Executive Branch and on the role of OIRA as a coordinator of Executive Branch activities.

In addition to my academic work, I have learned a great deal about how the federal government functions through my service as a Public Member and Senior Fellow of the Administrative Conference of the United States, and on committees of the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the National Research Council.

Over the last two decades, I have been entrusted with several leadership positions, including my service as Dean of NYU Law School from 2002 to 2013, and, since 2014, as Director of the American Law Institute, which is the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and otherwise improve the law. In these positions, I have an open-door, collaborative management style. I am accessible to my staff and responsive to their concerns. I believe in hearing a full range of perspectives before making a decision. I lead by example and not by command. I would bring the same management style to my position leading OIRA.

If confirmed, I would be honored to work with the President and Congress to ensure that our nation's regulatory policies serve the interests of the American people. Thank you again for considering my nomination. I would be delighted to answer your questions.