

**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL RIGAS**

**Nominee to Serve As  
Deputy Director  
U.S. Office of Personnel Management**

**before the**

**UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

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**October 18, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, and Members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you here today. It is an honor to be nominated to be Deputy Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and I would like to thank President Trump for the opportunity to serve.

I would also like to take a moment to thank my wife Laura, my parents John and Zoe Rigas, my siblings and other family and friends who have supported me throughout my life. It is from my parents that my siblings and I were taught the importance of public service as a way to give back to this great country to which they immigrated. My father spent over twenty-five years as a public school teacher, and among the seven children in our family; five are in public service today.

I would also like to thank the Chairman, and Committee staff, who took the time to meet with me during this process and I look forward to working with you, and with the Members of this Committee, if confirmed. I would also like to thank Acting Director McGettigan for being here today and for her support during this process.

I am grateful to be before you today to be considered for a position where I would have the opportunity to serve Federal employees and the American public. I know from my own experience at the state and Federal government levels, the commitment and dedication of those that serve their country.

I hope to bring my over twenty years of management and leadership experience to bear on the challenges facing OPM today. If confirmed, I will work with agency leadership and staff to further OPM's ability to execute its mission of recruiting, retaining and supporting the Federal workforce in the most efficient and effective way possible.

OPM has faced a number of challenges over recent years. If confirmed, I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working to address the pressing issues the agency faces. In particular, if confirmed, I hope to focus on building on the work already undertaken to improve the information technology (IT) posture of the agency and restore the confidence of the public in the agency's ability to safeguard federal employee data.

There are also opportunities at OPM to modernize how the agency's work is carried out, and how it can support federal employees, retirees, and those seeking federal employment. In my previous experiences in the public and private sectors I have implemented reforms, streamlined operations, and reduced the amount of time it takes to process benefits. These are the types of experiences I would like to bring to the role of Deputy Director, if confirmed.

In each of my previous professional leadership roles, I believe I left those organizations in a better position than I found them. I have endeavored to make a positive and meaningful impact, both in the public and private sectors, from improving customer service to saving taxpayer dollars.

Each of these successes was possible because of the dedicated men and women I have had the privilege of serving with, who worked together as a team, to achieve a shared vision of a better workplace for our organization and better service for our customers and taxpayers.

It would be an honor to serve at the Office of Personnel Management, if confirmed, and to serve those who seek a career in public service, those currently serving, and those who have retired from federal service.

I want to thank the Committee for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.