

Opening Statement of Nancy M. Ware
Nominee for Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
For the District of Columbia
United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
November 8, 2011

Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Chairman Akaka, Ranking Member Johnson, and distinguished Members of this Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is an honor to be the nominee to serve as director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) for the District of Columbia. I want to thank President Obama for the confidence he has shown in me by nominating me, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for recommending me to serve in this position.

I would like to introduce the members of my family who are with me here today, my wonderful children and my daughter-in-law, my brother and sister-in-law. I am enormously indebted to them for their love and support. I also want to pay homage to my parents who are no longer with us but always nurtured my aspirations and supported my endeavors. I am profoundly grateful to all of them. Finally, I would like to thank all of my friends and co-workers who also took time out of their busy schedules to come and support me on this important day.

As the former director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for eight years and currently serving as a Senior Management Analyst for CSOSA, I am keenly aware of the tremendous responsibilities of the director of CSOSA as well as the pivotal role that this agency plays daily in support of public safety in the nation's capital and the surrounding jurisdictions.

As a native Washingtonian, I have maintained a life-long love for the District of Columbia, its rich and vibrant culture, history and its people. I understand the needs of DC citizens and the particular public safety challenges of the District of Columbia. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work for both District and federal agencies whose missions put me in direct contact with persons who have been wards of the city, have been incarcerated, and or directly impacted by the criminal justice system. Consequently, I am acutely aware of the needs and challenges that confront the law enforcement community and the men and women who are responsible for supervising at-risk and repeat criminal offenders.

If confirmed as the Director of CSOSA, I want to assure you, the employees of CSOSA, and DC citizens that I will do my utmost to ensure that the agency upholds its mandate to effectively supervise its probation, parole and supervised release population with particular emphasis on high-risk, and repeat offenders. I am also motivated and committed to helping CSOSA clients obtain the knowledge and skills necessary to function as law-abiding and contributing members of the community. I understand that this is a difficult challenge, but it is one we are committed to at CSOSA. Additionally, I recognize that it is essential to build a sense of confidence and enthusiasm among our core employees who are seeking management direction, stability and accountability from its director.

Chairman Akaka and Ranking Member Johnson, I welcome the opportunity to tackle the challenges that lie ahead at CSOSA and thank you for affording me the opportunity to offer my testimony today.

In closing, I want to thank the Committee for the attention it has given to my nomination. If confirmed, I intend to work closely with you, Mr. Chairman, the other Members of this

Committee and your staff to pursue our shared objective of promoting the safety of the public and the successful reintegration of the men and women returning from prison. I am deeply committed to maintaining the very productive and close relationship that exists between this Committee and the agency that I have been nominated to lead.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you or Members of the Committee may have.