

Statement of Senator Mary L. Landrieu
Secret Service on the Line: Restoring Trust and Confidence
May 23, 2012

I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for calling this very important hearing.

We hold federal law enforcement and military personnel to a high standard of professionalism and ethical behavior. This is particularly applicable for those charged with protecting our nation's highest officials and representing our country and its people abroad.

The alleged actions by members of the United States Secret Service and the United States military are a gross violation of the public trust. Although I am concerned with the reputational effects of this incident, I believe the agency is taking this matter seriously. I have spoken with Director Sullivan on several occasions since this unfortunate event occurred and look forward to hearing from Acting Inspector General Edwards. I am glad that both the Secret Service and the DHS OIG are vigorously engaged and attempting to learn from this incident. I believe that it is important that this hearing remain prospective.

As Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, which has jurisdiction over funding for the U.S. Secret Service, I recognize the important role and respectable history of this agency.

Yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out the FY13 bill for DHS which included 4.3 million above the requested amount for the U.S. Secret Service Domestic Field Operations.

My committee report acknowledged the swift and decisive response by the Director to immediately address the situation, conduct a thorough investigation, and take appropriate disciplinary action against the individuals involved. It is important that this unfortunate incident serve as a learning experience.

I will continue to monitor the Directors efforts related to this issue. Director Sullivan and Acting Inspector General Edwards, I appreciate you both being here to discuss your agency's probe into this incident and for sharing investigation findings with this committee.