

**Opening Statement of Sen. Tim Kaine  
Introducing Suzanne E. Spaulding  
Nominee to be Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
September 18, 2013**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and Ranking Member Coburn and committee members; it is a treat. This is a real example of the best and brightest being here for Suzanne, and I think we often have hearings where it's about the best and brightest, but I don't remember doing one where I thought it was the best and brightest who was so particularly suited for this particular position.

To begin, as my friend Mark mentioned, her family has a great family career in public service, both in civilian public service and also service in the military: her parents, her brother, her sister and Suzanne. We may not do all we need to do to honor the service of those who serve the country in both a military and civilian capacity; we learned to our horror two days ago that there are sacrifices, including sacrifices that you don't expect to happen, but this family has sacrificed for public service in some really notable ways and I begin there.

And second, Mark talked a bit about her background, you know Suzanne has worked for twenty five years in this field of trying to advocate for the nation's security, in the private sector and in the public sector, in the public sector at the federal level and at the state level, at the federal level in the Executive and in the Legislative, and in the Legislative for Democrats and Republicans, and for Senate and House. She's touched this issue from virtually every angle, and made it her life's work and her life's passion.

And in serving in this acting capacity, she has earned the confidence of this administration, and she's also earned the confidence of two previous DHS Secretaries, Secretaries Chertoff and Ridge, who have strongly weighed in on her behalf, and I think all that speaks very well of her nomination and urge it to be considered favorably and promptly.