

**STATEMENT OF BETH F. COBERT**

**Nominee to Serve As  
Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget**

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

**October 2, 2013**

Thank you Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Coburn, and Members of the Committee for welcoming me today. It is an honor to be considered by this Committee as President Obama's nominee for Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

I am pleased that some of my family could join me today, including my husband Adam Cioth, my son Peter Cioth, and my mother Shirley Cobert. My husband and children, including my daughter Talia who could not join us today, have been exceptionally supportive over the years – even when the demands of my job and community commitments meant time away from them. I greatly appreciate their support as I take on this new challenge.

I would like to especially recognize my mother. She and my late father were role models for me of the importance of being engaged, involved citizens and giving back to the community. My mother is still an active volunteer at age 90, including continuing to be a stalwart of civic engagement efforts and adult education programs in Montclair, NJ, where I was raised.

I want to thank President Obama for nominating me to this position. And I also want to thank Director Burwell and Deputy Director Deese for their support and confidence in me.

Finally, I want to thank Members of the Committee and their staff for taking the time to meet with me. If I am confirmed, I look forward to continuing our conversations and strengthening the vital relationship between OMB and this Committee.

If confirmed, I would hope to help advance the effort to improve government management and performance. I would focus on the four pillars the President emphasized in his second-term management agenda: effectiveness, efficiency, economy and people.

These pillars form the base of strong government performance. Improving how the Federal Government delivers service to the public, including through the enhanced use of new technologies, will increase our effectiveness. Eliminating waste and finding operational savings in programs, processes, and systems will build efficiency. Taking steps to ensure the government is enhancing economic growth, such as opening up government data to create new businesses and economic opportunity, and the ongoing effort to speed up the Federal permitting process will strengthen our economy. And importantly, investing in how the government attracts, develops, retains, and optimizes a first class Federal workforce will help us compete successfully in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy, to ensure the best and brightest are serving in the Federal government.

I believe that these are the right pillars on which to focus our government's management efforts. Given the tremendous fiscal constraints our government is operating under, it is more important than ever that we carefully integrate management efforts into our budget processes and the delivery of government services. I believe the President's management agenda will ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and that we are maximizing the value of the services we deliver. If confirmed as Deputy Director of Management, and also in my role as the Chief Performance Officer, I would work with Congress and the dedicated staff at OMB and in Federal agencies to drive that agenda forward on behalf of the American people.

I recognize that the Administration, working with Congress, has already made great strides in the management area, steadily improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our government. And I want to commend Steve VanRoekel, who currently serves as Acting Deputy Director for Management, for his outstanding work.

As Chairman Carper noted, I come from the world of management consulting. I am currently a Director and Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company, where I have worked since 1984. I believe my experience and skills as a management consultant would serve me well in the position of OMB's Deputy Director for Management as well as the designated role as Chief Performance Officer.

Over the last 29 years at McKinsey, I have worked with corporate, non-profit and government entities on key strategic, operational, and organizational issues. I have led major projects to generate performance improvements through process streamlining, enhanced customer service, improved deployment of technology, more effective marketing programs, and strengthened organizational effectiveness. I have also held leadership roles at McKinsey in people management, including recruiting, training, developing, and performance evaluation of staff. These represent the same areas of performance improvement that are at the heart of President Obama's second-term management agenda.

If confirmed, I would work to build on the Administration's successes and utilize my knowledge of private and public sector best practices to help make even further progress.

Again, I want to thank the President for giving me this opportunity to serve and the Committee for considering my nomination. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.