

**Written Statement of Andrea L. Thompson**  
**Nominee to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security**  
**Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**  
**February 15, 2018**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Menendez, Distinguished Members of the Committee,

It is an honor to be with you today as President Trump's nominee for Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. I am humbled by this opportunity--with your approval--to serve in the Administration and work with you, the White House, Secretary Tillerson and the dedicated professionals at the State Department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some very important people in my life. I'm joined today by my incredible husband, David Gillian, and many dear friends. Thank you for your love and support. I'd also like to thank my parents who are watching at home in South Dakota, and a special hello to my mother-in-law, Meg Gillian, and my grandfather, Dean Nelson, who's 92 years young. Finally, I'd like to send recognition to my family and friends who couldn't be here today but have served as role models and mentors throughout my life. I'm a proud South Dakotan and it's the values and work ethic of those I grew up with that always showed me what right looks like. Thank you Senator Thune for your kind words and your representation for our great state.

I had the privilege of serving this Administration before, as Vice President Pence's National Security Advisor. During my tenure, I worked with the NSC, Members and Staff of Congress, leaders across the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Commerce and Energy to name just a few. However my background in international security and the importance of those relationships began years before during my 28 year career as a military officer. From leading troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Germany, Central America, and other locations across the globe, I saw firsthand the importance of relationships with our allies and partners and the critical need for a strong and steadfast security structure. I've seen both the successes and failures of our arms control policies. I've been on the receiving end when diplomacy fails. If confirmed, I commit to you that I will always place the safety and security of the American people first.

I am also fully cognizant of the profound responsibilities of senior leadership. During my military service and in the private sector, leadership was my legacy. Bringing people together, with different strengths and viewpoints, to work towards a common goal is an exciting challenge. The State Department's Arms Control and International Security team of over 600 talented men and women are committed to advancing our US policies and protecting its people. They are the backbone of our Nation's most important policy decisions, negotiations and treaties. These professionals cover arms control and international security issues, nonproliferation matters, including missile, nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons proliferation, export control policies, and foreign assistance programs. All of which are of vital national security interest to the United States. I am excited about the opportunity to lead this team, if confirmed. I also look forward to working with my colleagues at the State Department, other U.S. Government agencies, Congress and our international community.

The Administration has clearly set a high priority for our nuclear posture, arms control, nonproliferation and political-military policies. The President and Vice President's commitment in these areas has been and will remain steadfast. The recent review of our nuclear and missile defense postures offer critical opportunities to outline the vision of how this Administration will work to ensure our security in the face of the world's most destructive weapons. If confirmed, I look forward to regularly consulting and

engaging our allies and partners both at home and abroad on these important deterrence, strategic stability, and defense issues.

The threat of WMD proliferation continues, and the role of the United States and its leadership to counter that threat remain as great as ever. By continuing to work with our allies and the international community, we send a clear message to those who violate UN Security Council resolutions, established treaties and agreements. We must continue to put maximum pressure on those regimes through diplomatic and economic sanctions, including robust implementation of U.S. sanctions legislation. Along with our partners and allies, we must continue to improve upon our capabilities, strengthen our resolve, and force these regimes to change their behavior.

Much has been done but there is much more to do. As our enemies adapt and technologies evolve, so must we. I appreciate the work that's been done by this committee and if confirmed, I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with all of you in that endeavor.

As one of its first legislative decisions over two centuries ago, our Congress prescribed an oath, establishing a bond between the people of this great Nation and those who have committed themselves to service to the American people. I first took this oath 30 years ago. The same oath all of you have taken. It would be my highest honor to again serve the American people, and support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member and Members of the Committee, I am honored to be considered for this critical appointment. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I welcome your comments and questions.