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**NOMINATIONS OF DEBORAH BIRX; SUZAN
LEVINE; MAUREEN CORMACK; AND PETER
SELFRIDGE**

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2014

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

Deborah L. Birx, of Maryland, to be Ambassador at Large and Co-ordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally
Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein
Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-419, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Edward J. Markey presiding.

Present: Senators Markey, Cardin, Murphy, Kaine, Corker, and Barrasso.

Also Present: Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. This hearing will come to order and we welcome all of you this afternoon. Today we welcome four distinguished individuals who have been nominated for senior positions in our Nation's State Department. I want to express my appreciation to the ranking member, Mr. Barrasso, as we begin our hearing today and I want to thank our panel for being here.

Our first nominee is Deborah Birx, who has been nominated to serve as Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally. Dr. Birx has been a renowned leader and innovator in the HIV/AIDS field for decades. I could go on singing Dr. Birx's praises, but my colleague and fellow Senate Foreign Relations Committee member, Senator Cardin, is going to arrive here soon in order to graciously deliver

Dr. Birx's introduction, so that is all that I will have to say for right now.

Our second nominee is Susan LeVine. After a storied career at Microsoft, Ms. LeVine has been nominated by the President to be our Ambassador to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Ms. LeVine has substantial experience in the private sector, including at Microsoft, and we are fortunate to have both of her distinguished Senators from Washington who have also offered to introduce her to the Foreign Relations Committee.

I will note at this point that there is a roll call on the Senate floor right now, so we are going to have an imminent arrival of several distinguished Senators in order to properly extol the virtues of our candidates.

We also have before us Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, who has been nominated by President Obama to serve as our next Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ms. Cormack brings a wealth of experience at the State Department, most recently as the Principal Deputy Coordinator of the Department's Bureau of International Information Programs. As the Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Cormack provided skillful leadership to our Nation's public diplomacy communications operation.

Since she began her career at the State Department in 1989, Ms. Cormack has demonstrated exemplary service both at home and overseas. I believe her background will enable her to bring strong leadership to our Foreign Service as the next Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Last but certainly not least, we welcome Peter Selfridge, who has been nominated by the President to serve as the Chief of Protocol at the State Department. Mr. Selfridge has a long and impressive track record of ensuring that the highest profile Presidential trips go off without a hitch, no small feat. He has demonstrated this as the Director of Advance and Operations at the White House. That is precisely the sort of experience needed in our Chief of Protocol.

As our Nation's first contact that welcomes foreign leaders and diplomats to our Nation, the Chief of Protocol plays a crucial role in our Nation's diplomatic operations. Put simply, our Chief of Protocol makes person to person diplomacy possible.

Mr. Selfridge began his career right here in the United States Senate as a staff assistant and legislative correspondent in the office of Senator Tom Harkin, and we are glad to welcome him back today as we consider his nomination to this position. Unlike many Senators, he has made his way to the White House. So we congratulate you on that.

With that, I would like to stop and actually begin to allow our witnesses to testify. As the Senators arrive, I am going to interrupt at that point so that each of the Senators can make their welcoming comments as well. So why do we not we begin with you, Ms. Birx. Whenever you feel comfortable, please begin.

STATEMENT OF DEBORAH L. BIRX, M.D., OF MARYLAND, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE AND COORDINATOR OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS GLOBALLY

Dr. BIRX. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. Let me begin by acknowledging the much appreciated and unheralded work of this committee and many in this room who have persistently and effectively moved AIDS from the shadows to the center of our global health agenda.

I am deeply grateful to President Obama for his continuing support and investment and in challenging us to do more, to Secretary Kerry for his long-term commitment to changing the course of this pandemic, to Secretary Clinton for the blueprint for an AIDS-free generation, and to President Bush for creating PEPFAR.

Let me also take a personal moment to acknowledge my parents here today, who taught me to live my life focused on others, and my daughters, age 27 and 30. I am very proud of them and grateful for their patience and sacrifice.

Senator MARKEY. Could they stand for a second so we can recognize them for the fantastic work they did.

[Parents stand.] [Applause.]

Senator MARKEY. Beautiful. Thank you all for being here.

Dr. BIRX. As you know, the AIDS pandemic has been devastating. Since the first cases were recognized in 1981, more than 30 million people have died of HIV and more than 30 million people today live with HIV. But the AIDS story has changed dramatically over the last decade. It is no longer one of overwhelming despair. It has by sheer determination forged a different path, driven from the amalgamation of literally millions of untold and often heroic personal, political, and programmatic choices. Now the tide of this relentless pandemic is turning.

Because of activists and analysts, scientists and religious leaders, parents and parliamentarians, we stand on the verge of achieving what many of us thought impossible just a few short years ago, the ends of the AIDS epidemic as we know it.

My own 34-year professional journey, most of it in uniform in our Nation's armed services, has been intertwined with the path of this epidemic from the beginning. My path has been marked by humility, inspiration, and discovery: humility because at Walter Reed in the early 1980s we were caring for young soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who were suffering and dying from a mysterious illness and we could not save them; inspiration from Africa in the late 1990s, when pregnant women dying of HIV/AIDS still came forward, were tested, and confronted stigma and discrimination, forsaking their own lives to save their babies from HIV, and we could do nothing to save them; discovery for the potential pathway to an effective HIV vaccine through a partnership with NIH, DOD, and Thailand, and discovering through PEPFAR that we have not only saved lives but changed the course of this epidemic.

The United States political leadership of this global response have also taken risks, defying conventional wisdom, across multiple administrations and Congresses. This committee was instrumental in creating PEPFAR in 2003, which has twice been reauthorized with strong bipartisan support.

It only looks possible in hindsight that the whole of government coming together to achieve a common goal. the Department of State and USAID, the Departments of DOD and HHS and their components, as well as the Peace Corps, working together every day to implement PEPFAR.

Among the lasting legacies has been the speed at which outstanding science and innovation has been translated into sound policy and programming at scale. Looking forward, our chance to realize an AIDS regeneration is within reach. We have arrived at a critical moment in time where we can redefine the trajectory of this epidemic.

But our challenge is to remain—is maintaining our focus. If we begin to drift, if we lessen our aspirations or we leave our science behind, we will have squandered all of this investment and allowed the accomplishments of the last decade to unravel, with enormous negative consequences.

We have arrived at an AIDS-free generation—we can arrive at an AIDS-free generation through PEPFAR and our vision is one that reflects shared responsibility, accountability, and impact. First, we need to follow the PEPFAR blueprint and the clear recommendations from external reviews. Second, we need to work together to achieve the vision of PEPFAR, holding each other accountable by harnessing the power of science to create new paths and tools, the power of scale in our programming, to continue to demonstrate to the sometimes-skeptical world that we are both capable of saving lives as well as changing the very face of this epidemic, the power of partnerships to create genuine synergies and to hold each of us accountable to our commitments, and the power of activism to translate our aspirations into our policies.

Finally, we must stay focused in four key areas: scaling of effective interventions, strengthening countries' capacities and systems, sharing responsibility to address the epidemic, and most important ensuring transparency, accountability, and oversight.

I believe we can accomplish what was truly unthinkable just a few short years ago. I look forward to the opportunity of working with this committee as we bring this to fruition, and let me stop here and express my deep appreciation and take any questions.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Birx follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DR. DEBORAH L. BIRX

Thank you Senator Markey, Senator Barrasso, Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Corker and distinguished members of the committee. I am deeply honored to have been nominated by President Obama, with the strong support of Secretary Kerry, to serve as the United States Global AIDS Coordinator and to lead the global HIV/AIDS efforts on behalf of our Nation. It is a particular pleasure to have this opportunity to appear before your committee, which has so persistently and effectively moved AIDS from the shadows to the center of our global health agenda. I would like to applaud the members of this committee and your congressional colleagues for your unwavering bipartisan support of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and for the recent passage of the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013. You are to be commended for your leadership in moving this legislation forward and with each reauthorization strengthening PEPFAR's investment strategy and program oversight to ensure maximum impact on the epidemic to achieve an AIDS-free generation.

Please know that if confirmed, I will continue to work with you and the larger global health community to further strengthen and accelerate our global HIV/AIDS efforts to ensure that our programs have an even greater impact in saving lives, changing the course of the HIV epidemic, and taking a major step forward in achiev-

ing an AIDS-free generation. I will also ensure effective oversight, accountability, and enhanced transparency to you and the American people so that our investment of tax dollars reaps the greatest dividends. Our investments must continue to be smart, strategic, and impactful if we are to ultimately win the global battle against HIV/AIDS.

The AIDS pandemic has devastated individuals and communities in the United States and around the world. Since the first cases were recognized in 1981, more than 30 million people have died from AIDS and millions more are now living with HIV, with an estimated 1.6 million deaths in the past year. Countless others have been affected by untold personal and economic loss. In recent years, however, the story of AIDS has changed dramatically. It is no longer just a story of devastation and despair—it is one of healing and hope. By sheer determination and millions of heroic personal, political, and programmatic choices, the tide of this relentless epidemic is turning.

The U.S. global HIV/AIDS effort has both launched and anchored the largest and longest lasting global health collaboration in history. Working together we have brought about extraordinary achievements that have transformed individuals, communities, societies, and countries. Over the last decade we have seen impressive gains. We have reached, and in many cases exceeded, PEPFAR's targets defined by the President. In FY 2013, PEPFAR directly supported 6.7 million men, women, and children worldwide with life-saving medicines; supported HIV testing and counseling to more than 12.8 million pregnant women; and provided antiretroviral medications to prevent mother-to-child transmission of the virus to 780,000 women. Last June, Secretary Kerry made the historic announcement that PEPFAR had achieved a milestone—1 million babies born HIV-free. We have supported more than 4.7 million voluntary medical male circumcision procedures in east and southern Africa. And PEPFAR supported 17 million people with care and support, including more than 5 million orphans and vulnerable children, in 2013.

These efforts have saved millions of lives and illustrate the critical role of American leadership in global health. Within the global response to the epidemic, PEPFAR has served as a remarkable example of cooperation across the breadth of our Government and our Nation with countless partners around the globe. This success owes a great debt to the leadership of President George W. Bush and the members of his administration for creating PEPFAR. To President Obama, former Secretary of State Clinton, and Secretary of State Kerry for their deep commitment as outlined in the "PEPFAR Blueprint for an AIDS Free Generation" to further extend our efforts. And to the visionary leaders in this and earlier Congresses, who had the foresight to propose, support and guide this program in its development. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Ambassadors Eric Goosby and Mark Dybul for their effective stewardship of PEPFAR during the current and past administrations. And we are grateful as well to the pioneers who created the Leadership and Investment in Fighting the Epidemic (LIFE) Initiative in the Clinton administration. The U.S. global response to HIV has been uniquely uninterrupted, and each administration has contributed its own vision while maintaining the fundamentals, securing bipartisan bicameral support through each reauthorization, and reflecting the enduring compassion of the American people.

My entire professional career has been focused on the AIDS epidemic, interacting with it from a number of different perspectives both in the United States and throughout the world. As a physician I have cared for patients, beginning in the 1980s at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, before we knew a deadly virus was causing this horrendous disease. I made scientific contributions in understanding how this virus destroys the body's defense mechanisms.

And while leading the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research work on HIV/AIDS, I was able to acquire a more thorough appreciation of the potential and limitations of groundbreaking vaccine research. As a proud Army Veteran, having risen to the rank of Colonel, I brought together the Navy, Army, and Air Force in a new model of cooperation—whose lessons I would hope to adapt in this role to ensure that the full U.S. Government interagency PEPFAR collaboration is enhanced. Finally, in my current role as the Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Global HIV/AIDS, I have had the privilege of working with and across the full array of U.S. Government PEPFAR implementing agencies, where I developed a unique understanding and appreciation of the complementary roles of each. These diverse and demanding experiences have challenged me personally while reinforcing my confidence in our collective capacities—and my optimism that our chance to create an AIDS-free generation is within reach.

Our challenge is to maintain our focus. If we begin to drift, to lessen our aspirations, or to stray from the scientific method, we will have squandered our accumulated assets and allowed the accomplishments of the last decade to unravel, with

enormous negative consequence to a great many young lives. To achieve an AIDS-free generation—we need to refocus our efforts, reenergize our partnerships, and reaffirm our commitments to achieving our objectives. My confidence in our eventual success derives from what we have seen and experienced thus far in the global effort.

We have seen our many partners in clinics and communities across five continents persevere and prevail in their efforts to bring sound science to the service of social justice.

We have seen the compassion and passion of AIDS advocates and activists at the forefront of the global response drawing support to the organizations, health care providers and community health workers who directly touch the lives of those we are privileged to serve.

Within the U.S. Government efforts, we have seen in action the leadership at the Department of State, including the important contributions of ambassadors to the field, as well as the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, and USAID; the Department of Health and Human Services and its agencies, including CDC, HRSA, and NIH, and the Office of Global Affairs; the Department of Defense; the Peace Corps; the Department of Labor; and the many dedicated career staff working here and overseas bringing their complementary expertise and shared commitment to this effort.

We have seen the increased efforts of other governments, our multilateral partners, the private sector and a wide array of community, faith-based and civil society organizations, including those living with HIV/AIDS join forces to create a global response, which brought the political will of the global community to bear at the front line of the epidemic.

Together we have experienced the power of activism, to translate our aspirations into our policies; the power of science, to create new paths and tools where the ones we have in hand fall short; the power of scale in our programming, to continue to demonstrate to a sometimes skeptical world that we are capable of changing the very course of the epidemic; the power of partnerships, to create genuine synergies and hold each of us accountable to our commitments; and the power of our collective will and generosity of the American people. Together we have achieved what was once thought to be unachievable.

Looking forward, our vision is to achieve an AIDS-free generation through shared responsibility, accountability, and impact. First we need to pursue both the agenda defined by the "PEPFAR Blueprint," reflecting lessons learned from 10 years of experience in supporting countries to rapidly scale up HIV prevention, treatment, and care services, as well as recommendations from external reviews available to help guide PEPFAR's next steps. Second, we need to work together with all our partners to realize our vision, holding each other accountable and continuing to work together as activists, scientists, policymakers, and service providers to turn the tide of this epidemic together.

To realize this vision we must stay focused on four key areas. First, we need to use country-driven analyses to accelerate action to scale up effective interventions for maximum impact in saving lives. Second, we must focus on strengthening country capacities and systems for longer term accountability and sustained impact. Third, we need to establish innovative Country Health Partnerships that ensure shared responsibility of the epidemic with country and other global stakeholders, including more robust engagement of country governments and civil society. Finally, we need to ensure enhanced transparency and accountability of program objectives, impact, investments, and quality.

SCALING OF EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

As a physician and epidemiologist, I am strongly committed to ensuring that country-driven analysis steers efforts to accelerate action to rapidly scale up effective interventions for maximum impact and controlling the HIV epidemic. Science, epidemiology, and dynamic data systems are essential. We will work with partner countries toward scaling up the best models for facility- and community-based service delivery that ensures that our resources go to the right people at the right time. We will prioritize reduction of sexual transmission by driving programs using epidemiological data and intervention effectiveness. To achieve an AIDS-free generation, we must analyze the epidemic country by country and tailor our approach to those most at-risk, to: eliminate new HIV infections among children and keep mothers alive; increase coverage of HIV treatment to reduce AIDS-related mortality and enhance HIV prevention; end stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and key populations (e.g., men who have sex with men, sex workers, and people who inject drugs), improving their access to, and uptake of, comprehensive HIV

services; increase the number of males who are voluntarily circumcised for HIV prevention; and increase access to, and uptake of, HIV testing and counseling, condoms and other evidence-based interventions.

STRENGTHENED COUNTRY CAPACITIES AND SYSTEMS

I am committed to ensuring that our PEPFAR programs are designed, implemented, and measured to strengthen country ownership and that we build long-term capacity of governments and civil society in countries through innovative Country Health Partnerships. These efforts to strengthen country ownership enjoy strong international support, and working with our partners we will maintain a concerted focus in health systems in a results-oriented manner that will be critical for sustaining the response to HIV prevention, care, and treatment. Through our work we will ensure we effectively support countries in strengthening their health systems over time with metrics and strategies that align with PEPFAR's vision. I am committed to ensuring that civil society engagement will be enhanced to make sure that those voices are involved in decisionmaking, implementation, and oversight activities of all PEPFAR programs.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EPIDEMIC

Nothing is possible alone, "shared responsibility" is an established U.S. Government perspective and I believe everything is possible through this perspective and partnership. This means a joint approach toward country led, managed, and implemented responses with civil society, multilateral, and bilateral partners, including key collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, UNICEF, other multilateral, nongovernmental organizations and faith-based organizations. PEPFAR and the Global Fund financed programs are complementary and intertwined in countries where both exist. If confirmed, I will be vigilant in ensuring that we continue to realize strong program coordination, decreased costs, greater impact and efficiencies between Global Fund and U.S. investments—so that we are getting the best return on all available resources to fight HIV/AIDS in countries. Similarly, private sector mobilization is critical to service delivery and sustainable programs. We will continue to work toward shared accountability so that countries are in a position to manage and control their own epidemics. We will apply lessons learned from PEPFAR and our development partners across the health and economic sectors to more effectively deploy our transition policy in a stepwise manner that is consistent and aligned with epidemiology, strategy, and financing.

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND OVERSIGHT

If confirmed, I am committed to ensuring enhanced transparency and accountability of program impact, cost, and quality by clearly and transparently aligning vision, strategy, and resources. We must strengthen key management and accountability relationships between multiple agencies, countries, and recipients in support of common health goals. We will use health economic data, including in-depth cost studies and expenditure analyses, to better manage program accountability to demonstrate PEPFAR's contributions to partner-country programs. We will use a comprehensive knowledge management framework, including a program monitoring and evaluation strategy, a prioritized and targeted research portfolio, and systems for knowledge dissemination, improved implementation and oversight—not only by the United States but also by the countries themselves.

The history of the end of the 20th century will be forever recorded with the emergence of a new and deadly viral plague that challenged us scientifically, socially and politically. Fortunately, that history will also record that—eventually—we faced our own fears of the disease and embraced those infected and affected with the open arms of compassion, creative research, and determined solutions. Our task is to ensure that the history of the beginning of the 21st century records that we continued to bring our collective scientific and care-giving potentials together around the globe. And that with confidence in our tools and capacities, we focused them with unwavering urgency to control this pandemic. We demonstrated that this chronic disease could be managed in resource-limited settings. And when the end of HIV/AIDS epidemic was within our reach, we grasped it and held on tightly. We cannot permit complacency to allow this pandemic to reemerge stronger and deadlier than it was before.

Mr. Chairman, though the road ahead will be challenging, I am confident that we will prevail. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to support and further the work of our many colleagues and partners whose determined effort is an inspiration to us all. It is essential that the United States of America continue to lead the global fight

against HIV and AIDS until we achieve our overarching objective, as envisioned by the President. Those who remain skeptical might find heart in Nelson Mandela's encouragement to us that: "It always seems impossible until it is done." The challenge in front of us is indeed immense, but we have learned a great deal from our efforts and success to date. The time has come where we can confidently translate our aspirations into operations, and systematically reign in this epidemic.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.

Senator MARKEY. Our next witness, Ms. LeVine; whenever you are ready, please begin.

STATEMENT OF SUSAN G. LEVINE, OF WASHINGTON, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Ms. LEVINE. Thank you so much. Chairman Markey and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to both the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein. I am profoundly humbled by this opportunity and thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust and confidence that they are placing in me with this nomination. I would also like to thank Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell, when they get here, for their generous remarks on my behalf.

If I may, I would like to introduce you to some of the members of my family who are here today. I would like to introduce you to my mother, Phyllis Davidson, my husband, Eric LeVine, and my children, Sydney and Talia. It is through their love and support that I am here today.

Lastly, I would like to mention that I am sure my father, Maurice Davidson, may he rest in peace, who proudly served as an Army physician in Vietnam, is with us today in our hearts. Patriotism and service to our country were paramount to him and he instilled those values in me and my siblings throughout his life.

Over the last—

Senator MARKEY. Can I ask your family to stand up, too, so we can see them?

Ms. LEVINE. Absolutely.

Senator MARKEY. Oscar in a supporting role here.

[Family stands.] [Applause.]

Senator MARKEY. Thank you.

Ms. LEVINE. Thank you.

Over the last 20-plus years, be it as a leader in business, both as a director at Microsoft and a vice president at Expedia, or as an intern at NASA, or as a volunteer and leader in the nonprofit sector, or as a mother, I have pursued opportunities and overcome challenges. I have led teams, built partnerships, organized communities, grown businesses, created and cultivated social media spaces, and conducted youth outreach. Above all, I have achieved results.

Throughout my career, I have focused my efforts on technology, innovation, education, travel, early learning, and social responsibility, all key areas of partnership with Switzerland and Liechtenstein. As two of the oldest federal republics in the world, the

United States and Switzerland are close friends and partners. Our relationship spans important areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, from human rights to regional stability.

As in any mature relationship, sometimes we have different perspectives. The issue of bank secrecy and tax evasion was a difficult one, but the U.S. and Swiss Governments have reached important agreements in this area and we are turning the page. Liechtenstein has also made great progress in the sharing of bank information.

I believe the mission for this position is to foster bilateral relationships with both Switzerland and Liechtenstein that enhance prosperity, stability, and security in our respective nations and around the world. Thus, if confirmed I would leverage my experience and knowledge to execute three key strategies: one, further grow our economic ties; two, expand global security and development collaboration; three, increase awareness and appreciation for each other's culture, values, and policies.

Let me elaborate. From the economic standpoint, we will start from a strong base. Switzerland is one of the top foreign direct investors into the United States, accounting for hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Switzerland is also a top-20 export market for American goods and services. Liechtenstein, even with a population of about 36,000, has key companies that account for thousands of U.S. jobs. If confirmed, I would make it a priority to tap into the rich potential for even more foreign direct investment and exports with these two partners.

Second, throughout my career I have built and stewarded partnerships where we tackled bigger opportunities and challenges than we could have alone and at the same time reduced redundancy and cost. The United States, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein have done some outstanding work together on this front. For example, along with the Swiss we are founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. In addition, with Switzerland serving as the 2014 Chairman in Office of the OSCE, we have the opportunity to work together for security, prosperity, and human rights in Europe and Eurasia. If confirmed, I would explore how we might better leverage and expand existing partnerships or create new collaborations to further our shared global priorities.

Finally, if confirmed I hope to increase awareness and appreciation of culture, values, and policies between our nations. For example, as Americans among our many values we pursue fairness, protect our environment, and respect diversity. On the policy front, we are working closely with the Swiss on a number of policy priorities, including on the NATO-led Kosovo force, steering humanitarian assistance, and conflict mediation.

To be effective at increasing awareness and appreciation, it is important to understand at least one of the core Swiss values and policies, that of neutrality, and how they demonstrate that neutrality does not mean hands off. For example, in January alone Switzerland took over the chairmanship in office of the OSCE, hosted the Geneva talks on Syria, and hosted the World Economic Forum in Davos. If confirmed, I will ensure that our global priorities and policies are articulated to both the Swiss and Liechtenstein Governments and their people.

In all of these areas and endeavors, if confirmed I will rely on our highly skilled embassy staff, both local and American.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you again for inviting me to testify before you today. If confirmed, I commit to serving with integrity and to proudly and humbly applying my experience to this position. I look forward to collaborating with this esteemed committee and the Congress to foster our relationships between the United States and the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein in the global diplomatic, development, and economic spheres.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

[The prepared statement of Ms. LeVine follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SUZAN G. LEVINE

Chairman Markey, Ranking Member Barrasso, and distinguished members of the committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the next United States Ambassador to both the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

I am profoundly humbled by this opportunity and thank President Obama and Secretary Kerry for the trust and confidence that they are placing in me with this nomination.

I would also like to thank Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell for their generous remarks on my behalf. I have known both for many years and hope that I can live up to the very high standards that each sets as an incredible public servant—whether as the ultimate mom in tennis shoes or as a tech exec doing good.

If I may, I would like to take just a few moments to introduce you to some of the very special members of my family who are here today. First, I'd like to introduce you to my mother, Phyllis Davidson—who grew up not far from here and whose parents, my grandmother and grandfather, a WWI veteran and cofounder of the American Legion, are buried in Arlington Cemetery. Next, I'd like to introduce you to my husband, Eric LeVine, and my wonderful children, Sidney and Talia. It is through their love and support that I am here today. Lastly, I'd like to mention that I'm sure my father, Maurice Davidson, may he rest in peace, who proudly served as an Army physician in Vietnam, is with us today in our hearts. Patriotism and service to our country were paramount to him and he instilled those values in me and my siblings throughout his life.

Over the last 20-plus years, be it as a leader in business, both as a Director at Microsoft and a vice president at Expedia, or as an intern at NASA, or as a volunteer and leader in the nonprofit sector, or as a mother, I have pursued opportunities and overcome challenges. I have led teams, built partnerships, organized communities, grown businesses, created and cultivated social media spaces, and conducted youth outreach. Above all, I have achieved results. It is my great hope that the Senate will permit me the opportunity to use my skills and experiences to further our vital relationship with Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

My dual degrees in English and Engineering reflect my unique approach to leadership—I am a translator and a connector. Throughout my career I have focused my efforts on my passions, including technology, innovation, education, travel, early learning, and social responsibility—all core sectors of excellence for both Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and key issues of partnership in our bilateral relationship.

As two of the oldest federal republics in the world, the United States and Switzerland are close friends and partners. Our relationship is deep and strong, covering a wide range of important areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, from human rights to regional stability. We share many of the same values.

The United States and Switzerland partner together in many areas, including in venues such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), of which Switzerland is the Chairman-in-Office in 2014, the NATO Partnership for Peace, multiple U.N. bodies, and international financial institutions. Switzerland's neutrality allows it to play a unique mediating role, which can help address key U.S. foreign policy priorities.

As in any mature relationship, sometimes we have different perspectives on how to address certain issues. The issue of bank secrecy and tax evasion was a difficult one, but the U.S. and Swiss Governments have reached important agreements in

this area, and we are turning the page. Liechtenstein has also made great progress in the sharing of banking information.

I believe the mission for the job to which I have been nominated is to foster bilateral relationships with both Switzerland and Liechtenstein that enhance prosperity, stability, and security in our respective nations and around the world. Thus, if confirmed, I would leverage my experience and knowledge to execute three key strategies:

- (1) Further grow our economic ties;
- (2) Expand global security and development collaboration; and
- (3) Increase awareness and appreciation for each other's culture, values, and policies.

From an economic standpoint, the growth we pursue will start from a strong base. Both Switzerland and Liechtenstein have an outsized impact in economic matters. Switzerland is one of the top foreign direct investors in the United States, ahead of countries many times its size, and Swiss companies account for hundreds of thousands of American jobs. Switzerland is also a top 20 export market for American goods and services. Liechtenstein, even with a population of about 36,000, has key companies that account for thousands of U.S. jobs. If confirmed, I would make it a priority to tap into the rich potential for even more foreign direct investment and exports with these two partners.

The second strategy I want to highlight, if confirmed, will be to expand our global security and development collaboration. I firmly believe in the value of partnering on difficult issues. Throughout my career, I have built and stewarded so-called "1+1 = 3 partnerships"—where we tackled bigger opportunities and challenges than we could have alone and, at the same time, reduced redundancy and cost. This type of collaboration is critical when it comes to both global security and development, and the United States, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein have done some outstanding work together on this front. For example, along with the Swiss we are founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which aims to stop terrorism before it begins. In addition, with Switzerland serving as the 2014 Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, we have a great opportunity to work together for security, prosperity, and human rights in Europe and Eurasia. If confirmed, I would explore how we might better leverage and expand U.S.-Swiss and U.S.-Liechtenstein partnerships, and other collaborations, to further our shared global priorities.

Finally, if confirmed, I hope to work to increase awareness and appreciation of culture, values, and policies between our nations. For example, as Americans, among our many values, we pursue fairness, protect our environment, and respect diversity. On the policy front, we are working with the Swiss Government on a number of foreign policy priorities, both in Switzerland's backyard and further afield. Within Europe, Switzerland is a major troop contributor to the NATO-led Kosovo Force. Beyond Europe, Switzerland has provided over \$70 million in humanitarian assistance for the people affected by the Syrian crisis, and helped to mediate among the factions in Mali. If confirmed, I will work with the highly skilled team at Embassy Bern to ensure awareness of these and other policies and values.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Swiss hold neutrality as a key value and policy. I got a taste of this fact in 1988 when, on the first day of my first trip to Switzerland, I was stunned to meet my hometown rabbi. He was there to escort a group of students on their trip from Poland to Israel; since these two countries did not share diplomatic ties at that time, Switzerland was the way-station. This experience powerfully imbued me with a sense of just how important the Swiss are in building bridges.

While the political landscape has changed dramatically since 1988, Switzerland's role as mediator and neutral broker has not. If anything, Switzerland has taken its global position to a whole new level. For example, in January alone, Switzerland took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE; hosted the Geneva 2 talks on Syria; and hosted the World Economic Forum in Davos. They are actively showing that neutrality does not mean hands off.

Fundamentally, if confirmed, I believe my key responsibility is to ensure that our global priorities are articulated to both the Swiss and Liechtenstein governments and their people so that we may partner wherever possible on key global challenges.

In all of these areas and endeavors, if confirmed, I will rely on our Embassy and its staff, both local and American. I have heard great things about the staff, and if confirmed I will seek to engender a true team spirit at the Embassy.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee—thank you, again, for inviting me to testify before you today. I feel honored to be nominated and, if confirmed, I commit to serving with integrity, and to proudly and humbly apply my professional, non-profit, and community experience to this position. I look forward to collaborating

with this esteemed committee, and the Congress, to foster our relationships between the United States and the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein in the global diplomatic, development, and economic spheres.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Ms. LeVine.

Next we will hear from Maureen Elizabeth Cormack. Welcome.

STATEMENT OF MAUREEN ELIZABETH CORMACK, OF VIRGINIA, NOMINATED TO BE AMBASSADOR TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ms. CORMACK. Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am deeply honored by the confidence placed in me by the President and Secretary Kerry. I would like to thank this committee for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. If confirmed, I will seek to merit your trust and avail myself of any opportunities to consult with you, as I know many Members of Congress have spent a great deal of time over the last two decades working to help ensure that Bosnia and Herzegovina moves toward a better future.

Mr. Chairman, my husband, William Cormack, who is also a State Department employee, has been my support and partner for 24 years. He has just transferred to an assignment in Pakistan and is very sorry not to be with us today. My oldest daughter is launching a new product with her colleagues at a startup in your great State of Massachusetts in Cambridge. My son William is—

Senator MARKEY. A very good excuse. [Laughter.]

Ms. CORMACK. It is a good excuse.

My son, William, is a freshman out in Colorado, and my daughter, Margaret, is on a semester abroad. So they are all here in spirit. We are a very Foreign Service family.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you all so much for all that you did, the family, as you are watching this on a computer someplace. Welcome.

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Please continue.

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you. I have some wonderful neighbors and Department colleagues who are here today and I thank them warmly for their support.

Mr. Chairman, I have on several occasions in my career been fortunate to work on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans. My relationship goes back to the mid-1920s, when as European personnel officer for the U.S. Information Agency my first assignment in 1996 was to assign staff to the public diplomacy section of our Embassy in Sarajevo at the conclusion of the Dayton Accords. Those I assigned were sent on three-month tours to a city riddled with bomb craters.

While serving at Embassy Paris in 1999, I was on the press staff for the Rambouillet Peace Talks, and as director of Western European Affairs in 2010 I worked with our European partners to ensure their contributions to the still-critical stabilization missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Kosovo.

Thanks in large part to the key role played by the United States through the implementation of the Dayton Accords, Bosnia and

Herzegovina has made strides since those early days. Much remains to be done, however, and the risk of backsliding cannot be discounted.

Starting with the Dayton peace process in 1995 that ended the horrific war that claimed over 100,000 lives, the United States has invested huge amounts of political, human, and economic capital to bring peace and stability to Bosnia and Herzegovina and build its postwar institutions. We continue this work today with efforts to strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's democracy, foster good governance, increase respect for human rights, and promote economic prosperity.

We have a special bond with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of our leading role in helping to end the war and build the peace, as well as through the thousands of Bosnians who immigrated to the United States. My goal, if confirmed, will be to work with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to build a stable, multiethnic, democratic, and prosperous country. We support the aspirations of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who want to see their country join the European Union and NATO so they too can share in the political stability and economic opportunities afforded by membership in these institutions.

The United States is concerned, however, by Bosnia and Herzegovina's lack of progress on the path to EU and NATO membership. Bosnian politicians and government leaders pledged their support for advancing the country's Euro-Atlantic aspirations, but have failed to take the basic steps required to move toward membership in those institutions. Constitutional changes are urgently needed to progress towards EU membership and make the government more efficient and responsive to citizens. Defense reforms for NATO integration and the conditions for transition of the Office of the High Representative remain unmet.

As evidenced in the protests throughout the country last month, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are frustrated with their political leadership, who have done little in recent years to improve the lives of their citizens and respond to the terrible economic situation. Politicians exploit zero-sum nationalism at the expense of the country as a whole, which prevents compromise on critical reforms.

Despite these challenges, there are signs of progress and opportunities to pursue. Recent demonstrations and the formation of citizens forums are a hopeful sign of citizen engagement, though it is critical that protests remain peaceful.

Our Embassy has a long history of working with civil society. If confirmed, I will build on these efforts to work directly with citizens in support of their shared aspirations instead of what divides them. The citizens will have the opportunity to hold their leaders accountable in general elections in October, a message I intend to strongly reinforce in public and private if confirmed.

Croatia's entry into the EU and progress made by Serbia and others in the region offers the potential to motivate Bosnia and Herzegovina to resolve long-standing obstacles to the country's EU integration.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a strong bilateral partner to the United States. Their troops recently returned from a deployment alongside the Maryland National Guard in Afghanistan and the staff of our Embassy in Sarajevo and branch offices in Banja Luca and Mostar is exceptionally talented and dedicated to our mission.

If confirmed, I will continue our crucial efforts to support the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and their aspirations for a peaceful and prosperous Euro-Atlantic future.

Mr. Chairman, I am so grateful to appear before this committee today and I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you.
[The prepared statement of Ms. Cormack follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MAUREEN E. CORMACK

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to be the U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am deeply honored by the confidence placed in me by President Obama and Secretary Kerry.

I would like to thank this committee for giving me the opportunity to appear before you today. If confirmed, I will seek to fully merit your trust and avail myself of any opportunities to consult with you, as I know many Members of Congress have spent a great deal of time over the last two decades working to help ensure that Bosnia and Herzegovina moves toward a better future.

Mr. Chairman, my husband, William Cormack, who is also a State Department employee, has been my support and partner throughout 24 years in the Foreign Service. He has just transferred to an assignment in Pakistan and is very sorry not to be here today. Our daughter, Elizabeth, is launching a new product with her colleagues at a startup in Cambridge, MA, today, our son, William, is a freshman in college, and our daughter, Margaret, is on a semester abroad, and so they are all with me in spirit. Some wonderful neighbors and Department colleagues are here and I thank them warmly for their support.

Mr. Chairman, I have on several occasions in my career been fortunate enough to work on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Balkans. My relationship goes back to the mid-1990s, when as the European Personnel Officer for the U.S. Information Agency, my first assignment in early 1996 was to assign staff to the Public Diplomacy section of our Embassy in Sarajevo after the conclusion of the Dayton Accords. Those I assigned were sent on 3-month tours to a city still riddled with bomb craters, whose citizens still lived in great hardship. While serving at Embassy Paris in 1999, I was on the press staff for the Rambouillet Peace Talks, and as Director of Western European Affairs in 2010, I worked with our European partners to ensure their contributions to the still critical stabilization missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Kosovo.

Thanks in large part to the key role played by the United States through the implementation of the Dayton Accords, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made strides since those early days. Much more remains to be done, however, and the risk of backsliding cannot be discounted as we look at the situation today.

Starting with the Dayton peace process in 1995 that ended the horrific war that claimed over 100,000 lives, the United States has invested huge amounts of political, human, and economic capital to bring peace and stability to Bosnia and Herzegovina and build its post-war institutions. We continue this work today, with efforts to strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's democracy, foster good governance, increase respect for human rights, and promote economic prosperity. We have a special bond with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a result of our leading role in helping end the war and build the peace, as well as through the thousands of Bosnians who immigrated to the United States. My goal, if confirmed, will be to work with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to build a stable, multiethnic, democratic, and prosperous country. We support the aspirations of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina who want to see their country join the European Union and NATO, so they too can share in the political stability and economic opportunities afforded by membership in these institutions. Supporting these aspirations, in close cooperation with our European allies, will be one of my top priorities, if confirmed.

The United States is concerned, however, by Bosnia and Herzegovina's lack of progress on the path to EU and NATO membership. Bosnian politicians and government leaders pledge their support for advancing the country's Euro-Atlantic aspira-

tions, but have failed to take the basic steps required to move toward membership in these institutions. Constitutional changes are urgently needed to progress toward EU membership and make the government more efficient and responsive to citizens. Defense reforms required for NATO integration and the conditions for transition of the Office of the High Representative remain unmet.

As evidenced in the protests throughout the country last month, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina are frustrated with their political leaders, who have done little in recent years to improve the lives of their citizens and respond to the terrible economic situation. Politicians exploit zero-sum nationalism at the expense of the country as a whole, which in turn prevents compromise on critical reforms needed to grow the economy, improve governance, and move toward Euro-Atlantic integration.

Despite these challenges, there are both signs of progress and opportunities to pursue. Recent demonstrations and the formation of citizen forums are a hopeful sign of citizen engagement, though it is critical that protests remain peaceful. The Embassy has a long history of working with civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina. If confirmed, I will build on previous efforts to work directly with citizens in support of their focus on shared aspirations instead of what divides them. The citizens will have the opportunity to hold their leaders accountable in the general elections in October, a message I intend to strongly reinforce in public and in private if confirmed. Croatia's entry into the EU, and progress made by Serbia and others in the region on their EU paths, offer the potential to motivate Bosnia and Herzegovina to resolve longstanding obstacles to the country's EU path.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains a strong bilateral partner to the United States. Bosnian troops recently returned from a deployment alongside the Maryland National Guard in Afghanistan, and the country remains an ISAF contributor. The staff of our Embassy in Sarajevo and branch offices in Banja Luka and Mostar is exceptionally talented and deeply dedicated to our mission.

With the strong support of Congress, U.S. assistance continues to support democratic development, good governance, rule of law, economic growth, defense reform, and interethnic reconciliation. If confirmed, I will continue our crucial efforts to support the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their aspirations for a peaceful and prosperous Euro-Atlantic future, and in their efforts to demand greater accountability from their leaders.

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to appear before this committee today. I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you so much.

Mr. Selfridge, another rollcall has gone off on the Senate floor. So I apologize to you. We are going to take a brief recess and then we will return and reconvene the hearing. So the chair calls this hearing to a recess and we will return in approximately 10 minutes.

[Pause.]

Senator BARRASSO [presiding]. Mr. Selfridge, if I could just welcome you on behalf of the other members who are here and congratulate each and every one of you. We are lucky to be joined by the two Senators from Washington State, who have both come to the committee today to first make a statement of introduction—and I apologize, due to votes. Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell, thank you so much for being here. I know you have an important message to bring to the committee as well as to the Senate, and whenever you are ready, Senator Murray, I turn to you.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PATTY MURRAY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON**

Senator MURRAY. Thank you so much, Senator Barrasso, and Senator Markey as well, for chairing this hearing today. I really appreciate the opportunity to be here today with Senator Cantwell to introduce Suzie LeVine from our home State of Washington as this committee considers her nomination for Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

I know you have a lot of nominations here today, so I just wanted to make a few points about Suzie. I first got to know her well around 7 years ago and, like most people when they first meet her, I was really struck by her energy and her passion and her commitment to her community, her country, and to making the world a better place. She has deep roots in Washington State's technology and business world, was put into leadership roles in Microsoft and Expedia. She is an experienced and proven manager and has earned deep respect throughout the industry for her ability to translate and communicate complex tech issues to customers and stakeholders, as well as for her understanding of consumer needs and how technology and innovation can meet them.

Throughout her career she has demonstrated a strong ability to assess problems, ask smart and insightful questions, find solutions, and motivate and inspire her team to act. When she sees a problem that needs to be solved, she is focused, engaged, and absolutely driven to get results.

But she combines that drive and energy with a true ability to listen to people and build relationships and a deep compassion and caring for others. These skills were invaluable in the business world and she brought them with her into her work in the community as well. She cofounded Kavana, a nationally recognized Jewish community organization in Seattle. She started and chaired the advisory board for ILABS, the University of Washington's Early Learning Research Lab, and through her work on education issues at Microsoft brought people together and built partnerships to support the thousands of students from around the world in the Imagine Cup, the company's global student technology competition.

She is clearly committed to her community and her country and it is clear that this patriotic spirit and love for America is something she and her husband Eric value deeply and have passed along to their children.

Suzy is all about having a positive impact wherever she is. It is clear she wakes up every morning thinking about how she can make a difference and then spends the rest of the day going out and making that happen. She has done it in the business world, she has done that for her community and for the students that she has worked with across the globe. She has done it with a smile, a positive attitude, a relentless energy, and a true spirit of compassion.

I am very confident that she will represent our country well and bring that same energy to her role as Ambassador. With all that is going on right now in Europe and across the world, we need people representing our country abroad who take these challenges seriously, who can bring people together, and who will stand up for our interests and represent our values.

So I am very proud today to introduce her to the committee, and I am delighted to be here with my colleague Senator Cantwell as well.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you, Senator Murray.
Senator Cantwell.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARIA CANTWELL,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON**

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Chairman Barrasso, and it is a pleasure to be here with my colleague Senator Murray and to introduce Suzy LeVine from Seattle to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for her consideration for Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Before I get started, I just want to acknowledge Suzy's family who are with her here today: her husband, Eric, and her children, Sydney and Talia, who I have gotten to meet before, and her mother Phyllis Davidson. I just want to thank them, because oftentimes these things are a responsibility that goes beyond just the Ambassador role, but the family sacrifices as well. So we want to thank them for their sacrifices in this effort and the support of Suzy.

In Seattle, as Senator Murray said, Suzy is well known as a savvy business leader and a trusted community advocate. In Washington State we are proud of our innovation economy, whether that is fuel efficient planes or medical breakthroughs or innovation in technology, and I think Suzy LeVine represents the best of Washington State. She knows how to build strong relationships, management teams with driven results, and whether it is working with Fortune 500 companies or major research institutions, she has done a lot.

At Microsoft she helped launch the Windows 95. As vice president of sales and marketing at Expedia, she was part of the senior management team that took the company public and helped it become the number one online travel company. Just recently at Microsoft, she was responsible for building a strategic partnership for the Imagine Cup, which built partnerships with major companies like Coca-Cola and Nokia. During that time she highlighted the innovation of students from 60 countries around the world.

So, like the Swiss students who designed a text-to-speech app called "Text For All," Suzy knows how important an innovation economy is, and I know that that will be very important in her role in Switzerland. That is because in Switzerland it was ranked the number one innovation economy in 2013 by the Global Index of Innovation. Switzerland is home to the largest physics lab in the world, CERN, and it has been a leader in research and innovation.

So Suzy has the right background from the tech world to hit the ground running in Switzerland and their very high tech economy. And she is a proven manager and can follow through on level policies and operations. She has also led a recognized nonprofit in Washington State and understands the important role of civil activities.

The Swiss have a system of a people's referendum. They propose legislation and even reverse legislation approved by parliament. Suzy is familiar with the many initiatives we have in Washington State, something I know that both the chairman and Senator Barrasso know from their home States as well. So she understands what community issues are and how they need to be heard, and throughout her life she has demonstrated that she is a good, proven team-builder.

So I am happy to be here and I wish her well in this new endeavor. I am confident she will do an excellent job representing our

country in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and I urge the committee to confirm her without delay.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you, Senator Cantwell. Thank you, Senator Murray. I know you have very pressing schedules, but thank you so much for taking the time to be with us.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you very much.

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you.

We are joined also by Senator Cardin. Senator Cardin, thank you for joining us. I know you have a statement to introduce one of the nominees.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MARYLAND**

Senator CARDIN. Senator Barrasso, thank you very much. I appreciate this courtesy. I first want to offer my congratulations and thanks to all the nominees that are at the dais and thank them for their service to our country, their willingness to continue to serve our country, and we thank your families also because we know this is a joint sacrifice.

Mr. Chairman, I am particularly proud of the Marylander that is on this panel, Dr. Deborah L. Birx of Maryland. Dr. Birx is a long-time Marylander and a world-renowned global health leader and scientist studying HIV/AIDS. Maryland is home to the very best medical researchers in the world. So I am pleased that President Obama has nominated Baltimore-born Dr. Deborah Birx to such an essential post.

Dr. Birx is a model Marylander. She is a pioneer in HIV/AIDS research who has dedicated her life's work to public service. Dr. Birx moved to Silver Spring, MD, in 1979 to begin training at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, then in D.C.—it is now in Maryland—and completed a joint fellowship with NIH at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

For nearly 30 years since the beginning of the epidemic, Dr. Birx has dedicated her professional career to understanding and changing the course of HIV/AIDS both in the United States and throughout the world. Dr. Birx has been on the front lines of the HIV/AIDS epidemic before even we knew what the disease was. While serving at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Dr. Birx led its work on HIV/AIDS, including HIV vaccine research in domestic and global settings. Dr. Birx was part of the cadre of researchers that were instrumental in helping us first understand the disease.

Throughout the 1990s and through 2005, she served as the Director of the U.S. Military HIV/AIDS Research Program in the Department of Defense and received the Legion of Merit Award for her innovation, management, and leadership in HIV/AIDS research and program implementation. She rose to the rank of colonel, bringing together the Army, Navy, and Air Force in a new model of cooperation, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. military's HIV/AIDS efforts through the inter- and intra-agency collaboration.

While in the Army, Dr. Birx served as Director of the U.S. Military HIV/AIDS Research Program and as Director of the Division of Retrovirology at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research from

1996 to 2005. Having served on Active Duty in the U.S. Army for 29 years, Dr. Birx retired in 2008 with the rank of colonel. Dr. Birx earned the prestigious U.S. Meritorious Service Medal for her leadership in refining, validating, and standardizing immunity testing in HIV-infected patients. She helped lead one of the most influential HIV vaccine trials in history, known as RV-144 or the Thai Trial, which provided the first supporting evidence of any vaccine being effective in lowering the risk of contracting HIV. She was awarded another U.S. Meritorious Service Medal for that effort.

Since 2005, as the Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Global HIV/AIDS, she led and managed its President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, global effort. She has published over 200 HIV-related publications on domestic and global epidemiology, treatment, vaccine development, and public health programs, policy implementation, and health systems strengthening, in addition to serving on over a dozen scientific and advisory boards.

She received her medical degree from Hershey School of Medicine, Pennsylvania State University, trained in internal medicine and basic clinical immunology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health.

Today we can envision an HIV-free generation within our lifetime. Dr. Birx is one of the trailblazers who has dedicated her life to making this vision a reality. Her support for PEPFAR's investments in programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV has paid great dividends. PEPFAR has averted more than one million pediatric HIV infections thanks to researchers like Dr. Birx and her colleagues.

So, Mr. Chairman, before there was PEPFAR and the Global Fund Dr. Birx was leading the charge against this disease. I can think of no more qualified person to be our Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally than Dr. Deborah Birx.

Let me just say in concluding remarks, we all get the opportunity every once in a while to introduce people from our State that have been nominated for a particular post. I do not think I have ever introduced a person who is more qualified, who has done more in her lifetime, than Dr. Birx. We are very proud of her work and I am proud that she has been nominated to this important post. [Applause.]

Senator BARRASSO. Well, thank you very much, Senator Cardin.

Senator CARDIN. They are all Marylanders behind me.

Senator BARRASSO. I do not blame them.

Thank you, Senator Cardin. I know you have a busy and pressing schedule. So thanks so much for joining us, and you are excused if that works for you. Thank you.

Now back to Mr. Selfridge, who has been nominated to be Chief of Protocol. Your flexibility in allowing us to go to three other Senators shows that you are already very qualified for the position.

STATEMENT OF PETER A. SELFRIDGE, OF MINNESOTA, NOMINATED TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE

Mr. SELFRIDGE. My resume is not as impressive.

I am, needless to say, very humbled by the company I share on both sides of this table. Ranking Member Barrasso, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. It is a tremendous honor for me to appear before this distinguished body as President Obama's nominee for Chief of Protocol of the United States. I deeply appreciate the confidence of both President Obama and Secretary Kerry in nominating me for this position.

If you would allow me, I would also like to recognize my wonderfully supportive wife, Parita, my cousin, Ami, and my long-time high school friends who have joined me here today.

Senator BARRASSO. Could I ask them to please stand and be recognized.

[They stand.] [Applause.]

Senator BARRASSO. Thank you.

Mr. SELFRIDGE. Thank you, sir.

My story is not unlike those of many in this room today. I am a descendant of immigrants and a proud son of the Midwest. My mother hailed from Germany, where she was born and raised in the shadow of World War II. My father is a second generation Chicagoland native of Scottish and Irish heritage. My wife's parents hail from Gujarat, India, and came to America, as did my mother and grandparents decades prior, in search of a dream that they will gratefully tell you has been fulfilled many times over, thanks to the opportunities afforded to them by this great country.

My father taught me at an early age that good etiquette and decorum are not only useful tools for navigating society, but a reflection of the person wielding them. Treating others as you would be treated is a virtue for everyday life and is one of the guiding principles of protocol.

I have had the honor of serving as the White House's lead logistical representative on official travel overseas and have had the privilege of working with some of the best and brightest American ambassadors and diplomats at our missions and consulates abroad. I have interacted with many of the very same protocol officers and foreign government officials who, if confirmed, I would hope to work closely with as Chief of Protocol.

Ranking Member Barrasso, as you and the members of this esteemed committee know well, the office of the Chief of Protocol plans an important role in advancing the foreign policy goals of the United States. The person selected for this post serves as the President's representative to visiting foreign leaders and their delegations, as well as the members of the diplomatic corps based in the United States. Not only is this a great honor, it also provides remarkable opportunities to create an environment for successful diplomacy, to promote cross-cultural exchanges, and to build new bridges of understanding.

I believe that we are obliged to use every diplomatic tool at our disposal to broaden our bilateral relationships as well as to set the stage where diplomacy can be made to work. The Office of Protocol provides many such tools to our government and its representatives. The team at Blair House works tirelessly to ensure that foreign dignitaries are properly accommodated as well as provided for and protected during their stays. The Ceremonials Division plans and executes official events hosted by the Secretary of State. This

dedicated staff, who I have had the privilege to meet, meticulously provides for the participation of the diplomatic corps in special events and public events, including joint sessions of Congress, inaugurations, funerals, and other ceremonies.

The Diplomatic Affairs Division diligently oversees the accreditation of foreign ambassadors, diplomatic agents, and consular officials, thousands of individuals posted throughout the United States. The Diplomatic Partnership Division works to strengthen and deepen our government and our Nation's relationships with the diplomatic corps through programming designed to promote new partnerships, enhance mutual understanding between our countries and their own.

Protocol's Visits Division manages the logistical planning behind hundreds of visits of foreign dignitaries to the United States, as well as all official engagements by President Obama, Vice President Biden, Secretary Kerry, and other officials overseas. This team also helps to plan and execute U.S.-hosted summits and other multilateral events.

Protocol also assists with the selection of gifts given by the President, the Vice President, First Lady, Secretary of State in their engagements with foreign leaders.

The work of the Office of Protocol provides a unique opportunity to showcase the very best America has to offer, not only as hosts, but as true partners in diplomacy.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you today and for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Selfridge follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF PETER A. SELFRIDGE

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. It is a tremendous honor for me to appear before this distinguished body as President Obama's nominee for Chief of Protocol of the United States. I deeply appreciate the confidences of the President and Secretary Kerry in nominating me for this position.

My story is not unlike those of many in this room today. I am a descendant of immigrants and a proud son of the Midwest. I was born in Illinois, raised in Minnesota, and educated in Iowa. My mother hailed from Germany where she was born and raised in the shadow of World War II; my father is a second generation Chicagoland native of Scottish and Irish heritage. My wife's parents hail from Gujrat, India, and came to America, as did my mother and grandparents decades prior, in search of a dream that they will gratefully tell you has been fulfilled many times over thanks to opportunities offered by this great country.

My father taught me at an early age that good etiquette and decorum are not only useful tools for navigating society, but a reflection of the person wielding them. Treating others as you would be treated is a virtue for everyday life, and it is one of the guiding principles of Protocol.

As Director of Advance and Operations for the President and in a similar role for the Vice President before that, I have had the honor of serving as the White House's lead logistical representative on official travel overseas. I have had the privilege of working with some of the best and brightest American ambassadors and diplomats at our missions and consulates abroad and interacted with many of the very same protocol officers and foreign government officials who, if confirmed, I hope to work closely with as Chief of Protocol.

Mr. Chairman, as you and the members of this esteemed committee know well, the Office of the Chief of Protocol plays an important role in advancing the foreign policy goals of the United States. The person selected for this post serves as the President's representative to visiting foreign leaders and their delegations, as well as the members of the foreign Diplomatic Corps and consular communities based in the United States. Not only is this a great honor, it also provides remarkable

opportunities to create an environment for successful diplomacy, to promote cross-cultural exchanges, and to build new bridges of understanding with leaders, governments, and citizens throughout the world.

I believe that we are obligated to use every diplomatic tool at our disposal to broaden our bilateral relationships, as well as to set the stage where diplomacy can be made to work. The Office of Protocol provides many such tools to our government and its representatives. The talented people who work in Protocol serve on the front lines of diplomatic engagement, and, if confirmed, it would be a great privilege to join them in carrying out this critical mission.

The team at Blair House—the President's Guest House—works tirelessly to ensure that foreign dignitaries are properly accommodated, as well as provided for and protected during their stay. What's more, it's a living museum that houses a considerable collection of treasured art and artifacts—many of which bear witness to pivotal moments in our Nation's history.

The Ceremonials division plans and executes official events hosted by the Secretary of State. This dedicated staff meticulously provides for the participation of the Diplomatic Corps in special events and official public functions including Joint Sessions of Congress, inaugurations, funerals, and other ceremonies, large and small.

The Diplomatic Affairs division diligently oversees the accreditation of foreign ambassadors, diplomatic agents, and consular officers—thousands of individuals posted throughout the United States.

And the Diplomatic Partnerships Division works to strengthen and deepen our government's—our Nation's—relationships with the Diplomatic Corps. As you know, there are more than 180 foreign ambassadors sent to the United States to represent their country's interests. This expert team engages those diplomats through a wide array of programming designed to foster good will, promote new partnerships, and enhance mutual understanding between their countries and our own.

Protocol's Visits division manages the logistical planning behind hundreds of visits by foreign dignitaries to the United States, as well as all official engagements with President Obama, Vice President Biden, Secretary Kerry, and other officials. Through their important work, the Chief of Protocol extends the first hand that welcomes these chiefs of state and heads of government to our country. This team also helps to plan and execute U.S.-hosted summits and other multilateral events, as well as supports Presidential delegations in their travel abroad.

Protocol also assists with the selection of gifts given by the President, Vice President, First Lady, and Secretary of State in their engagements with foreign leaders.

The work of the Office of Protocol provides a unique opportunity to showcase the very best America has to offer, not only as hosts, but as true partners in diplomacy.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration of my nomination. I look forward to your questions.

Senator MARKEY [presiding]. Thank you, Mr. Selfridge, very much. We thank the other Senators who have come to introduce our witnesses.

The chair will recognize himself and I am going to begin with you, Dr. Birx. Recent anti-homosexuality laws enacted in Uganda and Nigeria compromise the ability of PEPFAR programs to effectively reach the LGBT population with public health services and possibly put health workers at risk of retribution or imprisonment. For example, the new law in Uganda calls on individuals to report acts of homosexuality, but it is not clear what that provision means for doctor-patient confidentiality.

What strategies do you think that we should put in place to maintain and sustain effective HIV programming in these difficult and challenging environments as they unfold?

Dr. BIRX. Thank you, Senator Markey, for that question because, as with everyone in this room, we are deeply disheartened by the changes in both Uganda and Nigeria. It represents an entire step backward to a place where many of us were 35 years ago when this disease was first discovered. To move backward at a time when we should be moving forward and controlling the epidemic is con-

cerning to all of us, and I think you have seen the wonderful statements made by President Obama, Secretary Kerry, and a series of Senators and House members who have spoken out against this specific legislation.

We are very concerned about the public health impact of such of these bills because having it has an impact on services that people can no longer access because of their fear of retribution will be a huge step back for all of this epidemic control. It is particularly concerning to me for Uganda because Uganda was one of the few countries that had early control of its epidemic and then had over the last few years a real reversion and an increase in their incidence. At a time when they need to really concentrate every effort on controlling this epidemic, to pass this kind of legislation that will again cause the epidemic to expand and have people not access services is extraordinarily concerning to all of us in the field.

Senator MARKEY. Let me follow up by asking you: In your testimony you covered the unprecedented results that PEPFAR has achieved so far. They bear repeating. PEPFAR has supported antiretroviral treatment for more than 6.7 million people, cared for 17 million, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children, and last year announced 1 million babies have been born HIV-free, 1 million babies born HIV-free.

Beyond the measured results, PEPFAR transformed the thinking of what is possible for nations from AIDS futility to an AIDS-free future through leadership, science, and sound investments.

Your testimony has highlighted your strategic goals and priorities for PEPFAR. What priority results should this committee hold you responsible for, this administration responsible for, and on what time line? What are your goals?

Dr. BIRX. Thank you, Senator. Reading through the legislation and the reauthorizations from this committee really shows the knowledge that the committee has about this disease. The reporting requirements have evolved with the epidemic. The last act had very precise reporting requirements, but importantly also asked the office to look very carefully at prevalence and incidence in each of these countries and to measure clear impact.

We are working very hard to measure clear impact and that should be a goal that the committee should hold the office, the coordinator's office, responsible for, to really show country-by-country impact on this epidemic. Working backward from that, you absolutely have to have the treatment, the male circumcision, the counseling and testing, and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, which are all covered in the reporting requirements to this committee.

So you ought to hold me responsible to the roadmap that was laid out well a year and a half ago and to all of the elements that we know are responsible and the tools that we need to control this epidemic.

Senator MARKEY. So how will you use science and evaluation with regard to costs and efficiency to drive these targets and results?

Dr. BIRX. Over the last couple of years at CDC, we have integrated the costing analyses with site-level monitoring, so that we can actually analyze each site for its performance, how much it

costs to achieve that performance, the actual quality of the services delivered, and also measuring the impact on the community as far as controlling the HIV epidemic. This has been really important, to have that level of detail, and that is the level of detail we will need to bring to the office in order to ensure that we are having the impact that we are investing in.

Senator MARKEY. What is the role of prevention, specifically combination HIV prevention that brings together structural, behavioral, and biomedical interventions in achieving those results?

Dr. BIRX. Thank you for that question. That has been an important component of the office for the last 3 years. Ambassador Goosby, recognizing the importance of this particular approach, has launched two large combination prevention intervention trials that will actually look at this question in a very rigorous scientific methodology to ensure that we can answer the very question that you just asked.

These questions have been answered in very double-blinded, controlled trials, but when you take that to actual community implementation there is always the question, does it work as well? So these particular trials are actually launching services at the community level and then looking at their impact, and we will be able to tell you the components that have the largest impact on decreasing incidence.

Senator MARKEY. Great. Thank you so much for that great answer.

Let me ask you, Ms. Cormack, if you could just briefly summarize how optimistic you are about making progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina? Do you have some sense that progress can be made?

Ms. CORMACK. Mr. Chairman, thank you for that question. I think that optimism is an integral component of diplomacy. So yes, I always go out with an optimistic approach, but also a realistic approach. The United States, as I noted in my testimony, has invested significant time and effort in helping Bosnia and Herzegovina emerge from a very difficult war and rebuild the country, rebuild the institutions of governance, and start to build the civil society.

It is a period in time when we see citizens there starting to stand up and hold their leaders accountable, to take into their own hands some of the processes of democracy. I hope as I go out—I am a public diplomacy officer by training—to work directly with the people and really try to understand their concerns and see how we support them going forward into what we hope will be a Euro-Atlantic future.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you so much.

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Let me turn now and recognize the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Kaine—oh, I am sorry. Senator Barrasso.

Senator Kaine. I defer to my colleague.

Senator MARKEY. Let me turn and recognize the ranking member of the full committee, Senator Corker.

Senator CORKER. Well, thank you. I enjoyed our conversation on the earlier panel today.

Senator MARKEY. Senator Kaine and I are now in 8-minute seats up here.

Senator CORKER. Very good.

Senator MARKEY. It is a carryover joke from the earlier period.

Senator CORKER. I am going to have mine for about a minute and a half. So I thank you for this.

I thank all of you for what you are doing and getting ready to do. I just want to ask one question to Dr. Birx if I could. I am going to give a little preface for it. She is probably expecting this question. I want to thank you for being here today and I appreciated the meeting and discussion that we had regarding the PEPFAR program in my office.

One of the many laudable achievements accomplished by the PEPFAR program is the fact that 6.7 million people have been put on treatment by the end of the year 2013. The prioritization of treatment and care has been a hallmark of the PEPFAR program, as you know well. Focusing on the goals of both the implementing partners and U.S.-funded initiatives, in the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act we included a provision that has been part of the program since the beginning, the requirement that at least 50 percent of PEPFAR dollars must be spent on treatment and care programs. However, because the GAO report pointed out in a report in March 2013 that the administration has been excluding a significant portion of the PEPFAR funding from this 50-percent calculation, we clarified the language, and I know you and I talked about that. The language now states that the calculation must be made from all amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to carry out the provisions of Section 104[a] of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

So the question, after that preface. Senator Coburn and I wrote a letter to the administration asking a number of questions about the history of the treatment and care provision and we received their response shortly after our meeting. Today I would like to ask you about one of the specific answers we received in that response.

We asked the administration if they are planning to modify current policies in order to comply with the new language in the Stewardship Act, and they responded that they will consider it. My question to you, Dr. Birx: If confirmed, will you ensure that the agency conforms to this clarification in law regarding the treatment and care calculation? Will you work in your new position to change any necessary policies or guidance to make sure it is implemented in compliance with the law?

Dr. BIRX. Yes, sir, we will be compliant with the as-written in the legislation.

Senator CORKER. Thank you so much. I look forward to your confirmation.

Thank you for letting me do that on the record. If you want to talk about energy policy or anything else—

[Laughter.]

Senator MARKEY. I thank the ranking member for coming. Thank you, sir.

The gentleman from—the Senator from Virginia, Senator Kaine. Senator Kaine. He called me “gentleman,” but then he corrected it to “Senator.”

Senator MARKEY. As a Congressman you are called “gentleman” and I was in the House for 37 years, calling people the “gen-

tleman." But in the Senate you just call people "Senator." They are never "gentleman" over here in the Senate.

Senator Kaine. Very true.

Senator Markey. The Senator from Virginia.

Senator Kaine. Dr. Birx, I think I walked in as you were answering a question that the chair posed to you. But I think I want to come back to it. The legislative activity in Uganda is very, very troubling. I use that as an example for the possibility of other such action anywhere in the world that would stereotype or stigmatize folks because of their sexual orientation. Very possible that such legislation is something that we could—we will see, continue to see, in other parts of the world. That kind of legislation can promote an attitude, frankly, that will be counter to your mission of trying to educate, inform, eradicate and treat HIV/AIDS.

I imagine there are other parts of the U.S. Government, human rights offices and things, that are charged with dealing with those challenges when they come up. But I would also think part of your portfolio could be education and using the tools at your disposal to try to give people, give policymakers, the information they need so that they do not go down the path of discriminatory legislation. If you could talk just a little bit about what you see your role as in that important educational effort, I would appreciate it.

Dr. BIRX. Thank you, Senator. There are many gentlemen in the South, including from Virginia. So thank you.

This is an extraordinary time where we are making incredible progress. So to have this as a clear setback, and I think we all hear and share that this is an incredible setback to the people to be able to access services. If people cannot come forward for services, they cannot be tested. They will not know their status. They cannot receive lifesaving treatment and, more importantly, they cannot lower their viral load to a nontransmittable state.

So it is in all countries' interest to do all of their program, policies, and legal framework to encourage access to all public health services. I share your concern. I know the President shares your concern. Many Senators share your concern and have been very outspoken on this issue, as well as Secretary Kerry. I know that Secretary Kerry and the White House are working on this right now, and the Ambassador from Uganda is coming to Washington for this specific discussion during a chief of missions meeting, and we are working—I hope to work very closely.

But you are right, it is not just Uganda and Nigeria. There are similar laws on the books, not quite as restrictive and not quite as violent as Uganda's, in many of our countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and this legal framework has to be addressed in the future to have full successful control of the epidemic.

Senator Kaine. Thank you, Dr. Birx.

Ms. LeVine, congratulations on your nomination. You will succeed, I am confident, a dear friend of mine, Ambassador Don Beyer, who did a wonderful job.

Senator Markey and I are strong supporters of immigration reform. The question I wanted to ask you is about immigration, particularly your kind of interpretation—explain to us what you can about the Swiss vote on February 9, that was a narrow backing of a referendum to put immigration caps on immigration from EU

countries. Why did the Swiss populace back that? What can we learn from it?

Ms. LEVINE. Thank you very much for that question, Senator Kaine. I know that this is near and dear to your heart, also from your background in spending time in other parts of the world. The referendum itself is an internal Swiss matter and in terms of the implications to the United States or other parts of the world we do not yet know what those implications are and the ramifications of that referendum.

But I think that what we can take away from it is it is sort of a fascinating demonstration of Swiss direct democracy. They have an interplay of direct and representative democracy with which Western States, like Washingtonians and Massachusetts, have this interplay between having initiatives and representative democracy. I think what we take away from that is an opportunity to work more with the Swiss people.

I am moved by Peter's testimony earlier with regards to his being an immigrant and coming from an immigrant background. I think the American story about immigration is an incredible one. I would suspect that 95 percent of the people in this room have come here some time within the past four generations. When I look at people like a gentleman named Hadi Partovi, who worked at Microsoft for a very long time, came to the United States as a young man, as a young boy in fact, from Iran. He succeeded wildly in technology and now he has created a nonprofit called Code.org to help people become ready for the 22nd century, never mind the 21st century.

We have an extraordinary story to tell, and if confirmed I would love the opportunity to tell that story. I think that that is what we as Americans can do in articulating and in reaching out. I also think that, if confirmed, I would love the opportunity to work with organizations that bridge the gap between different communities and continue some of the fantastic work that Ambassador Beyer had done, especially around gender equality and reaching out to women and technology, and to get more women into technology, of which I am one.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Ms. LeVine. Wonderful answer.

Ms. Cormack, talk a little bit about the dynamics about the possible joining of NATO by Bosnia?

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you very much, Senator Kaine. Bosnia has pursued the track of joining NATO. It is, along with their accession to the European Union, something that polls show the majority of the population supports. As so much at the moment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they have not been able to take the specific steps needed to move firmly onto the track of a map, the process for NATO.

In the case of NATO, that is simply registering defense properties that have been identified by the ministry of defense as essential. These are unmovable defense properties that the ministry believes that they need for their functions. It is we consider a step that is fairly basic, and if confirmed I look forward to working with the Bosnians to try to help them move in that direction.

Senator KAINE. You do not read the failure of the Bosnians to take those steps yet as any equivocation about wanting to pursue

NATO? You think this is a kind of a practical matter that we should be able to address productively?

Ms. CORMACK. I think there are different perspectives among the population. Some people are probably less enthusiastic. Others are more so. But I do believe that, together with our NATO partners, we can try to move in this direction.

Senator KAINE. Thank you.

Mr. Chair, with your permission—I am right at the end—could I ask Mr. Selfridge a question?

Senator MARKEY. Yes.

Senator KAINE. Mr. Selfridge, your experience in directing advance and operations at the White House to me seems like the perfect background for this protocol job, because I understand a little bit about that position and I think it is pretty much the job description for protocol officer almost. But then there is the issue of challenging international sort of diplomatic perspectives and the fact that we sometimes see things differently than even our friends.

I just was curious about this. There have been some recent controversies relating to criminal charges against foreign diplomats in the United States and they have made headlines. These are things you hope do not happen, but they happen—episodes related to Medicaid fraud, 49 New York-based Russian diplomats and spouses allegedly obtaining Medicaid benefits; and then the very controversial and widely publicized incident in December of 2013 about the arrest of an Indian deputy consul general in New York City on charges related to household employment.

To your knowledge, to what extent in your position, Chief of Protocol, are you engaged in addressing or helping other officials within the U.S. Government figure out a way to address problems like that in a sensitive way?

Mr. SELFRIDGE. Thank you, Senator, for that question. This is an issue of great importance to the Department, as you know, and to Secretary Kerry. I think protocol's best weapon in these circumstances is communication. While we do not directly cover the visa process, we nonetheless can inject ourselves into that process by educating the workers themselves and the missions, foreign governments and their missions here in the United States.

I think that is the most important step. We believe, the Department believes, that it has been very effective as far as getting information that was not previously available to these workers out, including hot lines, other actionable items that these workers can take.

I think, as far as I guess post-infraction, the Office of Protocol acts as a coordinator, so to speak. They make sure the mission is aware of the infraction and encourage investigations of their own to correct them, and they can make recommendations in that regard. They also cooperate very closely with law enforcement to make sure that the missions and their diplomats and staff follow the law. Regardless of immunity, we expect all diplomats serving here to abide by U.S. law.

So in the case of Dr. Khobragade, we believe that the system functioned as it should. It is unfortunate that it had to get to the point that it did. But the case is still pending. Should she return to the United States, she would face charges. So again, this is

something, if confirmed, that I would have a great staff working on these issues and I would intend to make that a top priority.

Senator KAINE. Thank you to each of you, and thank you, Mr. Chair.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, gentlemen. I thank the Senator.

The chair recognizes the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. Murphy.

Senator MURPHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome to all of you. I think some of the ground that I wanted to cover has already been covered by my colleagues. Ms. Cormack, great to see you here. I enjoyed our time together.

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you.

Senator MURPHY. I wish you well in your new endeavor. I wanted to maybe ask you a broader issue about the challenges that confront the Balkans today and how the division of labor should be allocated between a historic United States leadership role in the Balkans and an emerging role for the EU in trying to moderate some of these disputes. There is all sorts of issues, but the three that sort of emerge at the top of the list over and over again are the question you will be confronted regarding Bosnian governance, the issue over the Macedonian name dispute with Greece, and then the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo, which is obviously getting better with the new agreement, but still has lingering issues.

So when I talk to friends in the Balkans they are welcoming of Lady Ashton's vigor on many of these issues, but are looking for a return to U.S. leadership on these questions. What do you see as the future of the European Union's ability to moderate some of these disputes and how does that dovetail with what I hope is a renaissance of American interest in the region in the coming years?

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you very much, Senator Murphy. I also enjoyed our conversation, so thank you.

The United States commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina remains strong. We also strongly support Bosnia's accession process to the European Union and NATO. We partner very closely with our European allies on the ground. There is an excellent European Union senior representative in Sarajevo. We work very closely with their Enlargement Commissioner. We really feel that we both play an important role. As you note, the United States has a very historic role in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our commitment is something that I certainly, if confirmed, intend to fully maintain. I look forward to working closely with the people of the country and really finding out how we can work together to help them move to a Euro-Atlantic future.

As we see countries like Croatia join the European Union, as Serbia and other countries move in that direction, Bosnia is in a region where they risk being isolated if they do not also follow that path. So it is the European Union that needs to have the lead in ensuring that Bosnia moves in the institutional sense in the direction that they need to if they are going to join Europe. But the United States certainly intends to be a key partner in that process.

Senator MURPHY. It certainly appears that the carrots that Europe has offered so far has not been sufficient to change the political dynamics on the ground in Bosnia. So I wonder whether there is a different set of incentives or a renewed road map that may be necessary in order to stimulate the domestic reforms necessary. I

do not expect you to have a fulsome critique of what that road map should be, but it appears to me that we should know by now that whatever we have used is maybe insufficient and it is going to take a new set of criteria, both sticks and carrots I guess, to get them to change their calculus.

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you, Senator. If confirmed I certainly would look forward to working with our European partners to have that conversation, because you are right, we are very disappointed, honestly, that Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been able to take the first basic steps to move toward the EU and NATO.

I do think that the demonstrations that we have seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina in recent weeks show an increasing frustration from the population with their leaders. These were economic demonstrations, people wanting jobs, wanting proper salaries, pensions, things that are very basic and that would certainly accrue to them if they start making the changes necessary to move down the European path.

So figuring out what that is, what would put the political will in place to get that process going, is something that I would look forward to working on.

Senator MURPHY. Great. Well, I think you are going to be a fantastic ambassador. I really appreciate your service.

Ms. LeVine, we had a chance to talk as well and I am glad that Senator Kaine covered with you the topic that we spent some time discussing, which is the rather disturbing anti-immigration trends, not just in Switzerland but throughout the continent. As we sort of think about the future path for Ukraine, we of course envision them joining the EU. But that prospect is dimmed in some respect by the fact that there is going to be an EU that may be even more Euro-skeptic than before and countries like Switzerland, which are having a little bit harder time rapping their hands around the concept of free flow of peoples. So I am glad to hear your commitment to work on that issue.

I wanted to just ask you about the pending free trade agreement with the European Union and just talk to you about the role that the Swiss will play and the role which your Embassy will play in trying to talk about ultimately the benefits that flow to all of Europe if we are able to ink a free trade agreement with the continent.

Ms. LEVINE. Well, to be clear—thank you very much for that question, Senator Murphy. I also enjoyed our time yesterday, albeit brief. I look forward to more time to discuss some of these matters if confirmed.

With respect to TTIP, Switzerland is not in the EU. They are in the European Free Trade Area. So while they are not part of the negotiations themselves, I think that the role that the embassy plays in the State Department plays is to continue to keep them updated on the progress of those conversations and identify those areas that would impact trade with Switzerland because of both the role that Switzerland plays in trade with Europe and of course as a top 20 export market for the United States and as a generator of over 400,000 American jobs, Swiss companies care deeply about the impact of TTIP.

So I think it is incumbent upon the State Department and the embassy team, and if confirmed myself as Ambassador I will make it a priority to continue to keep the Swiss Government updated and to facilitate in whatever way is necessary the USTR as they continue to negotiate this so that they keep the Swiss informed and involved.

Senator MURPHY. I appreciate that. There are all sorts of non-EU countries who have partnerships in various ways, shapes, and forms with the EU that are going to benefit from this free trade agreement. Switzerland will benefit from this agreement. Other countries on the edges of the EU will no doubt benefit. And we want to the extent possible to have them partners with us in trying to sell this, both internally and globally, as we move forward. So I appreciate your focus on this.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to ask some questions.

Senator MARKEY. If the Senator has any other questions—

Senator MURPHY. I am good.

Senator MARKEY. Beautiful.

Let me just ask you, Ms. LeVine, one quick question. Switzerland is shutting down its five nuclear power plants. It is going to decommission them and they are moving more toward a renewable energy future. Do you as a businesswoman see any opportunities for the United States in partnership with Switzerland to be engaging in business transactions that can help both Switzerland and the United States in that area?

Ms. LEVINE. Senator Markey, I especially appreciate that question given your history with the environment and being an incredible steward for renewable energy development in the United States and jobs related to renewable energy. So thank you very much for that question.

The short answer is yes. In addition to that, I think that there are a few areas related to this. Now, the Swiss have been leaders in clean tech funding and in fact clean tech from my understanding comprises about—clean tech jobs comprise about 5 percent of the jobs in Switzerland. There are over 160,000 people who are employed in that area. They are incredible funders, including sustainable asset management, green tech. There are emerald technology ventures.

If confirmed, Senator, I look forward to applying my skills in building partnerships and in understanding and reaching out to entities—previously Senator Cantwell talked about work that I did when I was at Microsoft engaging Coca-Cola, engaging Nokia, to work with our students, or when I was at Expedia I worked with tourism boards to engage them with travel agencies, to increase travel. I would apply those same skills and the success that I have had in that domain to understand the respective interests and opportunities from among the clean tech funders in Switzerland and then, similarly, reach out to innovators, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders in the United States to gauge what are their needs, and to try to do that matchmaking, and with that to make sure that it is sustainable and mutually beneficial.

Senator MARKEY. I think you are the perfect person, honestly, to capture that—

Ms. LEVINE. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY [continuing]. Economic opportunity for both countries. It is going to happen. This revolution is occurring. Switzerland believes that the planet is warming, that there are no emergency rooms for planets, and that we have to engage in preventative care, and Switzerland is a country that accepts that. They have the Alps. They can see what is happening. So we thank you for that.

What I am going to do here is to ask each of you, in reverse order, to give us the 1-minute, tell us the 1-minute thing you would want us to remember about what it is that you hope to achieve for our country in the positions that you have been nominated to fill. Give us your vision of what it is that you hope to provide for our country in this incredible opportunity that you are each being given. We will go in reverse order from the opening statements, so we will begin with you, Mr. Selfridge.

Mr. SELFRIDGE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a great question. I am thinking out loud right now because—

Senator MARKEY. And you would like to go last. [Laughter.]

Mr. SELFRIDGE. I am used to that order, yes, sir.

I am going to be thinking out loud a little bit here because I think the first thought that popped into my head is the Chief of Protocol, while somewhat—while very visible, I guess, when it comes to foreign diplomacy, is nonetheless supposed to I guess be seen and not heard. So I would like to be remembered as an excellent steward of the office.

That being said, I think there is always room, to borrow Secretary Kerry's line, for modernization and innovation, and I hope to look for those opportunities in the office, to perhaps be the Chief of Protocol, if confirmed, that invigorates the office in that respect. I also want to be known as a steward of the taxpayer dollars. I think this is one office that does quite a bit with very little.

I see my time is up. I will leave it at that and thank you again, Senator.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, sir.

Ms. Cormack.

Ms. CORMACK. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As I go out, if confirmed, to Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have three overarching goals. I have heard from everyone in the U.S. interagency that I have one of the best missions they have worked with, and I look forward to taking the leadership role of a wonderful group of people and really hoping to inspire and empower them to do wonderful work.

Secondly, I hope to use my public diplomacy skills and reach out far more extensively to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to, first of all, listen and really understand their concerns, and then find out how the United States can support their aspirations.

Finally, really support the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as they move toward a Euro-Atlantic future. I do believe that their future, multi-ethnic, democratic, and prosperous, should be rooted in Euro-Atlantic institutions.

So thank you so much.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you so much.

Ms. LeVine.

Ms. LEVINE. Chairman Markey, if confirmed I look forward to applying my skills, my experience, and my passion to increasing our economic ties, especially as measured by foreign direct investment and exports. I look forward to expanding our collaborations, existing and new, whether it is through the OSCE, whether it is through the Global Counterterrorism Forum, or whether it is creating new ones, public-private partnerships like ones recently announced between the Gates Foundation and the Swiss Government.

I also look forward to increasing awareness and appreciation, especially given what we discussed before in terms of direct democracy and outreach to the Swiss and Liechtenstein people, especially the youth and the students, and especially in the technology community.

Senator, I hope that I have been able to demonstrate today and through my submissions that, while nonlinear, my wide array of experiences, from working at Microsoft, Expedia, even at NASA, to volunteering and starting up nonprofits, and also to being a mom, equip me to serve our country proudly, humbly, and well.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Ms. Levine.

Ms. Birx.

Dr. BIRX. Those were all wonderful answers. I think I feel a lot of pressure to continue the amazing work that has been done in the field, and building on that coalition of activists and their insights, civil society and their insights, and linking that with the scientific innovations that we have found to be most helpful, and continue to take them to scale.

In addition, making it clear that the interagency process is the reason why PEPFAR has been successful. It was a brilliant idea to harness the whole of government. It made it clear that no one agency could do it alone. It has been amazingly successful in that we have learned from each other, yet still built on our individual agency strengths. The control of the epidemic that we have today is due to that.

Then finally, be able to demonstrate that we can definitively control the epidemic, and finding that country or those countries that we can do that in will be the absolute goal of the next 3 years.

Senator MARKEY. I thank you, Ms. Birx.

Well, we have four supremely qualified candidates for your positions. We thank each of you for your willingness to serve our country. I think you each have a background that fits the job that you have been asked to serve in perfectly, and we are very proud to have you as Americans willing to serve our country. I wish a speedy confirmation for each of you and I will try to help in any way that I can in order to accomplish that goal. So we thank you for that.

For the other members who were not able to attend, I just make the public announcement that they will have until the close of business tomorrow to submit questions to our witnesses, because we hope to be able to move forward quickly on these nominations.

So with that and the thanks of our country, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

RESPONSES OF DR. DEBORAH BIRX TO QUESTIONS
SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Burma is a PEPFAR bilateral country. In late February 2014, Doctors without Borders (MSF) was ejected from Rakhine State by the Government of Burma, which falsely alleged that MSF was stoking ethnic tensions. MSF is reportedly one of the biggest providers of HIV/AIDS drugs in Burma and also treats thousands of tuberculosis patients.

Question. How will MSF's ejection from Burma impact the health of the HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis patients they were treating in the country?

Answer. MSF Burma, represented by MSF-Holland (MSF-H) and MSF-Switzerland, has been working in Burma for over 20 years, providing basic and maternal health care and treatment for HIV and tuberculosis (TB). The current situation only applies to activities conducted by MSF-Holland. MSF-Switzerland has not been impacted by the recent developments in Rakhine.

MSF-H has significant operations in Rangoon and Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States. Currently, MSF-H is providing life-saving antiretroviral therapy to over 30,000 HIV positive patients and tuberculosis treatment to over 3,000 patients.

On February 27, 2014, MSF-H received a written order from the Government of Burma to cease all operations in the country pending renewal of its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the government. This led to a closure of all MSF-H clinics on February 28. On February 28, the Government of Burma allowed MSF-H to resume activities in all areas except Rakhine State. Seven hundred patients on antiretroviral therapy at MSF-H sites in Rakhine State have been impacted by the closure.

Question. What possible impacts will MSF's ejection from Burma have on the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in the country?

Answer. At the end of 2013, MSF was providing antiretroviral therapy to 31,276 patients across the country. This represents nearly half of the total number of people on antiretroviral therapy in Burma. In addition to antiretroviral drugs, MSF is also supporting additional key TB/HIV services, which is a critical given that the HIV rate among new tuberculosis patients is estimated to be nearly 10 percent.

Because MSF's HIV/AIDS and TB activities in most of the country were resumed after a single day of suspension, no significant impacts are expected on the spread of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in Burma nationally. The Ministry of Health has assured continuity of treatment services for those patients in Rakhine State. It will be critical for the MOH to continue these services in order to ensure the current gains in combating HIV/AIDS and TB in Rakhine State are not lost.

Question. What actions has the U.S. Government taken to encourage the Government of Burma to allow MSF back into the country?

Answer. MSF clinics continue to operate in many parts of Burma. The current suspension affects the MSF-Holland clinics in Rakhine State. U.S. Embassy Rangoon remains in regular contact with the Government of Burma and with local and international humanitarian assistance providers regarding the situation on the ground. Ambassador Derek Mitchell personally has been in frequent and active communication with both Government of Burma senior officials and MSF-H to encourage continued private dialogue in negotiating a way forward to ensure no gap in necessary humanitarian services and to work toward a restoration of MSF-Holland services in Rakhine State. As part of this effort, on the day of MSF's suspension, Ambassador Mitchell highlighted for Burmese officials from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Border Affairs, the humanitarian consequences of MSF-H not being allowed to continue provision of its life-saving services. Ambassador Mitchell also encouraged the GOB to continue dialogue with MSF toward ensuring unfettered access for humanitarian agencies to people in need. USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah joined with Ambassador Mitchell in expressing strong concern about the events of February 28 to government ministers with the Burmese President's Office. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman also raised the issue with senior Burmese officials during her March 6-7 visit to Burma.

U.S. Embassy Rangoon continues to engage daily with MSF-H and with the Government of Burma on this issue, urging the government to abide by international standards on humanitarian access and provision of services.

Question. How much PEPFAR assistance goes to Burma through MSF? Are there other PEPFAR partner organizations that can adequately treat the 30,000 HIV/AIDS patients that were under MSF's care?

Answer. PEPFAR does not provide any direct financial assistance to MSF, nor does it support direct treatment service delivery in Burma through any other partners. MSF is currently providing treatment services to over half of all patients currently enrolled on antiretroviral therapy in Burma, and there are no other organizations that can absorb 30,000 patients at this time.

Question. How much Global Fund assistance goes to Burma through MSF-H? Are there other Global Fund partner organizations that can adequately treat the 3,000 tuberculosis patients that were under MSF's care?

Answer. MSF-H received \$3.4 million USD in 2013 from the Global Fund, and is budgeted to receive \$4.1 million in 2014. As MSF activities have resumed in most of the country, the U.S. Government is optimistic that nearly all of the 3,000 tuberculosis patients on treatment will continue to receive services through MSF sites. For the patients on tuberculosis treatment at currently shuttered MSF sites in Rakhine State, the Ministry of Health has made a commitment to provide treatment to these patients until MSF is allowed to resume activities. Health agencies working in Rakhine State, including other Global Fund partner organizations, do not have the capacity to assume the treatment burden for MSF's caseload.

RESPONSES OF DR. DEBORAH BIRX TO QUESTIONS
SUBMITTED BY SENATOR BOB CORKER

Question. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support since its launch in 2003. Last year, this bipartisan tradition continued with the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act, which passed unanimously in the Senate and by a voice vote in the House. The program's support stems largely from the fact that Congress has a clear picture of what Americans get for their contributions by setting ambitious bilateral targets and goals specifically for PEPFAR and measuring progress toward those targets. However, this year the administration did not announce any new bilateral treatment or prevention goals for PEPFAR.

The PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act requires the administration to report on bilateral annual targets for treatment and prevention programs specific to PEPFAR.

♦ (a). How important do you think bilateral targets are to the performance, accountability, and focus of PEPFAR?

Answer. Annual bilateral country targets are a core marker for measuring performance and implementing partner accountability for contributing to impactful HIV prevention and treatment programs. Annual targets are used to build implementing partner budgets, and allow for the PEPFAR country team to plan and collaborate with the host government and the Global Fund on what can be achieved in core prevention and treatment programs in a given year, and how these targets contribute to increased levels of treatment and prevention program coverage.

PEPFAR's targets for prevention, care, and treatment have been a critical factor in enabling both Congress and the American people to understand how their investments have been saving lives in countries around the world. In addition to these annual targets, PEPFAR works jointly with local and international partners to define measurable commitments that contribute to creating an AIDS-free generation, including commitments around legal reform, supply chain improvements, and increased domestic contributions for HIV/AIDS—all areas of work that ensure that treatment and care programs maximize their impact and meet or exceed any bilateral targets that have been set.

PEPFAR will continue, per P.L. 113-56, the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act, to use bilateral targets as an essential component of its efforts to save lives and increase efficiencies. Fighting the AIDS pandemic will require global solidarity, and PEPFAR is only one of several donors working with partner countries on this epidemic. The act focuses not only on the bilateral targets established by PEPFAR in each partner country, but also the national targets established by the country itself, to which PEPFAR will contribute.

♦ (b). How will you ensure that the bilateral target requirements in the Stewardship Act are met?

Answer. On a semiannual and annual basis the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) requires all implementing agencies to report core prevention

and treatment achievements drawn from an established set of program indicators. At the semiannual check-in point, the intent is to identify those countries (and implementing partners within countries) that are not on track to reach annual targets established, determine the problems, and develop a plan of corrective action. When warranted, technical support is deployed to country teams from headquarters to provide further assistance. Close monitoring of country achievements to targets and corrected action has enabled PEPFAR to meet annual and multiyear targets in prevention, care, and treatment.

♦ (c). When will this year's bilateral PEPFAR targets be released publicly?

Answer. PEPFAR is committed to staying in regular communication with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) and other congressional committees of jurisdiction on progress toward setting FY 2014 bilateral PEPFAR targets. The FY 2014 PEPFAR Country Operational Plans (COPs), the source of 2014 targets by implementing partner by country, will be reviewed in April/May and finalized in the summer of 2014. In September/October, the 2014 COPs and targets will be made available to Congress and will also be posted publicly on the PEPFAR.gov Web site after a process of redaction has taken place to ensure that procurement sensitive information has been removed. The 2014 COP will be implemented in FY 2015. Currently PEPFAR teams are implementing COP 2013, and all 2013 COPs have been posted publicly.

In addition, in December 2013, the President called for the new U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, once confirmed, to convene our partners to develop joint HIV prevention and treatment goals to ensure we are making progress against this epidemic together. We will engage SFRC closely in our processes toward setting these global targets.

Question. PEPFAR has begun to transition from an emergency response to a sustainable, long-term program, including shifting toward greater country responsibility. While it is important for host countries to assume greater leadership in combating their HIV/AIDS epidemic, I am concerned by accounts that transitions to greater country ownership are driven by factors other than scientific data and country capacity. How those transitions are planned and executed is critically important and can involve significant risk to the more than \$40 billion we have invested as well as a tremendous risk to the people who depend on these programs for life and health.

What lessons have we learned from the transition process so far, and how do you intend to ensure that transitions to greater country ownership continue to increase the impact of core interventions, as well as protect our investments and the patients on the ground who are counting on us to get this right?

Answer. Greater country ownership is key to ensuring that the PEPFAR investments, systems, and capacities that have been established in the program to date continue in the long term. Through our partnerships, we have saved millions of lives, and our paramount responsibility is ensuring that those to whom we provide treatment and care continue to receive treatment and care during our transitions.

Under PEPFAR we have learned that political leadership, local management and technical capabilities, supportive public health institutions and communities, and mutual accountability are factors that affect the degree to which countries are ready to assume responsibility for the prevention, treatment, and care of people dependent on services that the United States has been providing. With our partner countries, we need to share the common goal of using scientific data with adequate financing to invest in proven interventions and key populations to achieve continued progress toward an AIDS-free generation.

In countries where PEPFAR funds have been used to provide support for direct service delivery in prevention, care, and treatment programs, PEPFAR teams have delivered transition successes in conjunction with their country counterparts. Health care workers previously trained and funded by PEPFAR are now funded by the government. Delivery of clinical services has transitioned from international NGOs to the Ministry of Health, local NGOs, and faith-based local providers. National procurement and delivery of commodities are funded by domestic resources. In all cases, these successes have been possible due to strong partnerships and sustained because of strong political will and commitment. In addition, across multiple countries, PEPFAR has registered successful transfers of responsibilities for the care of key populations—groups that may have difficulties accessing health and support services—to local civil society.

Across former focus countries, district- and provincial-level government and non-governmental entities have assumed the role of direct service provider, enabling efficiencies and maintaining or improving performance. We are monitoring the use and

impact of evidenced-based scientific interventions through our newly launched quality strategy. To optimize the impact of investments, expand population coverage, and retain more patients in care, PEPFAR is developing, in partnership with host countries, strategies for strengthening the quality of clinical services with a focus on improving linkage, engagement, and retention in care. These strategies are rooted in sound international standards and locally relevant strategies for quality management so that the best possible results are achieved from PEPFAR and domestic investments.

PEPFAR is also monitoring the readiness for and impact of transitions through a series of joint assessments with countries that will be taking on additional responsibility. These assessments focus on identifying what additional capacities are required for local partners—governments, research, development, and academic institutions, NGOs, the private sector, and civil society networks and communities—to lead, manage, and monitor internal and external efforts to address HIV/AIDS in country. Part of this process includes supporting a country's ability to drive the process to identify, source, and manage ongoing capacity-building efforts as a sustained government-led effort to target change, facilitated by capacity-building frameworks and indicators developed by PEPFAR in conjunction with our partners.

Our health partnership with South Africa is a model we are learning from, and continue to evolve with our partners in other countries, for transition to greater country ownership. Throughout the evolution of all of our partnerships, we have never lost sight of our shared goals: to enable more people in need of HIV/AIDS services to receive them, and ensure that those who already receive these services continue doing so. Strong partnerships with many diverse stakeholders are vital to achieving these goals. Where we face challenges, we work jointly to address them. For example, as some patients move from one facility to another, they can get lost in the system. Preventing this "loss to follow up" is a challenge in any health system, including within the United States. PEPFAR continues to work closely with our South African partners to support the rollout of monitoring systems to ensure patients are properly tracked over time and retained in care.

As PEPFAR moves from an emergency to a sustainability response, we are extremely cognizant of the challenges that partner nations face as we make this transition. Every country is situated at a different point on the continuum of country ownership, with a different range of needs and strengths. Advancing sustainability in a way that is tailored to each specific circumstance will require time and careful planning. PEPFAR is committed to ensuring that the eventual transfer of program management, implementation, and ownership to the host country occurs smoothly and at a pace appropriate to the local context. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to country ownership. The eventual transition of PEPFAR program activities to host countries will occur in a step-wise manner, at a pace appropriate to their local context. In all countries, PEPFAR's goal is to support the country in achieving an AIDS-free generation, increasing the impact of core interventions, as well as protecting our investments and the patients on the ground.

Question. Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) programming is intended to help achieve progress toward prevention, treatment, and care objectives, but exactly how they achieve it might not be as clear as it is with spending that is specific to a particular program area. Additionally, because the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator has not counted HSS as part of the denominator when calculating how to meet the treatment and care spending requirement in law, it would seem that it is somehow treated or viewed differently than other program focus areas.

- ◆ (a). What is the total annual funding level for HSS in PEPFAR by year, and how was that funding level determined?

Answer.

Budget Code—OHSS

2005 COP—Total Planned Amount	445,395,169
2006 COP—Total Planned Amount	58,972,580
2007 COP—Total Planned Amount	103,779,504
2008 COP—OPU Full JUL 2011—Total Planned Amount	152,471,123
2009 COP—OPU Full AUG 2012—Total Planned Amount	291,362,960
2010 COP—OPU Full AUG 2013—Total Planned Amount	337,581,718
2011 COP—OPU Full AUG 2013—Total Planned Amount	368,945,328
2012 COP—OPU Full AUG 2013—Total Planned Amount	364,601,625
2013 COP—Total Planned Amount	296,386,434

Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) funding levels as part of the annual Country Operational Plan (COP). Above are the most recent data for the Health Systems Strengthening budget code (OHSS) for COPs, including reprogramming. The collec-

tive, annual amount of HSS is variable and is dependent on the maturity of the program and specific HSS requirements in order to ensure strong results in prevention, care, and treatment programs. HSS-core activities include: support for human resources for health (HRH), supply chain management and improvement, infrastructure improvements, policy development that allows for optimal program delivery, economic strengthening initiatives for vulnerable populations, laboratory support and support for the development of strategic information systems and use of data. Each PEPFAR country team will prioritize those HSS efforts that are necessary for successful core program delivery.

In FY 2013, OHSS represented about 8 percent of the most recent COP total budget. The FY 2014 level is not included as the COPS are not fully approved.

- ◆ (b). Is HSS programming in PEPFAR required to demonstrate clear, direct contributions toward prevention, treatment or care targets, and if so, how?

Answer. HSS spending is designed to support delivery of prevention, treatment and care activities and achievement of targets set under those budget codes. The COP 2014 Guidance, OHSS budget code narrative, states: "The HSS strategy and program plan should clearly demonstrate how its priority interventions flow from and support the prevention, care, and treatment pillars of the overall PEPFAR program." The full COP 2014 guidance can be found here: <http://www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/217765.pdf>.

The FY 2014 Technical Considerations provide supporting documentation to link HSS programming to the delivery of prevention, treatment and care services. For example, the Technical Considerations illustrate how teams can map HSS activities to support three PEPFAR goals; (1) increased use of HIV/AIDS services by key populations; (2) option B+/pediatric treatment scale-up; and (3) antiretroviral treatment scale-up. The mapping provides specific examples of HSS investments that support these goals in several types of health system components: governance/leadership; human resources for health; supply chain management, laboratory systems, strategic information, and finance. The FY 2014 Technical Considerations for health systems strengthening can be found here: <http://www.pepfar.gov/documents/organization/217761.pdf>.

HSS is required to be linked to advancing population coverage of key prevention, care and treatment programs. For example, support for redesign of supply chains ensures that commodities are available at all levels of the health care delivery system and drug stock-outs do not occur, meaning that people are enrolled in treatment programs, receive TB treatment, are able to get an HIV test, and can undergo male circumcision—all core HIV interventions. Additionally, investments in building partner country supply chains results in improvements in the efficiency of drug supply chains and best price commodity procurements, which means available budgets provide health services to a larger portion of the population.

Some HSS interventions are multiyear investments, but ultimately allow for improved achievements. For example, policy work on the use of point-of-care CD4 testing in low volume regions allows for people to be enrolled in treatment programs without waiting for the results of a CD4 test sent to a regional lab. Investments in electronic systems allow governments to tabulate health care worker availability and improve deployment, health care worker performance and retention strategies. These investments deliver results over time. While their impact is not captured as a direct result on service delivery performance metrics, without these types of investments, care and treatment programs are poorly resourced and struggle to perform.

- ◆ (c). Does HSS programming have specific targets to meet or metrics by which its performance can be assessed?

Answer. Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) programming is governed by metrics that relate to several of the health system components mentioned above. For example, country teams must meet specific targets through FY 2015 regarding the number of new health care workers. In addition, policy changes, as an outcome of investments in governance and leadership, are tracked.

HSS metrics and target setting—while supporting the achievement of service delivery targets—are therefore, of a fundamentally different nature than those captured under delivery of prevention, care, and treatment services. Unlike investments in prevention, care, and treatment services, "activities that fall into the HSS budget code are generally those that are implemented above the service delivery point (site level)" (COP 2014 guidance).

Under PEPFAR's Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) set of indicators, performance of HSS investments in leadership/governance, human resources for health (HRH) and supply chain are currently tracked at the headquarters level

through the following (investments in laboratory systems and strategic information are primarily tracked through different budget codes):

- ◆ Measuring progress in developing and implementing policies that directly support PEPFAR prevention, care, and treatment activities (one indicator: LGF—PTT);
- Production and distribution of new health care workers (two indicators: HRH—PRE; HRH—HRIS);
- Strengthening of HIV and other commodities supply chains (two indicators: SC—TRAIN; SC—STOCK).

Question. Recently, PEPFAR has been sharply criticized for its lack of transparency for a lack of publically accessible and usable information, and that the program has actually made less data available over time.

- ◆ If confirmed, what steps will you take to reverse this trend and increase the transparency and usability of PEPFAR data?

Answer. As I said in my testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week, if confirmed, I will be fully committed to ensuring the PEPFAR program is transparent and accountable, and will be fully compliant with all the requirements of P.L. 113-56, the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act.

Since 2007, PEPFAR has made comprehensive financial, program, and partner-level data available on its Web site (pepfar.gov) through annual publication of Country Operational Plans (COPs). All published COPs describe in detail the planned activities for each of PEPFAR's implementing partners, including the scope of their program activities and the associated funding. PEPFAR also posts a quarterly report on its Web site that provides a financial picture of the PEPFAR program, including the available appropriations, obligations, and outlays for each PEPFAR implementing agency by country.

Moving forward, as part of its implementation of P.L. 113-56, PEPFAR will increase the transparency, granularity, and usability of its data. PEPFAR will publish all nonprocurement sensitive information clearly and transparently in an open web-based format, and expand the quality and quantity of information available in its annual reports, including available financial and performance data. If confirmed, I will keep Congress well-apprieved of efforts to increase data transparency and usability while avoiding inadvertently creating an overly burdensome reporting process for partner countries and U.S. Government teams in the field, which are also charged with producing lifesaving program results.

The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) is also working with the State Department's Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance on the ForeignAssistance.gov Web site, which is driving implementation of a whole of U.S. Government effort to align with the International Aid Transparency Initiative. Data that OGAC and PEPFAR implementing agencies provide for publication on ForeignAssistance.gov contribute to overall U.S. Government efforts to increase data transparency.