

**Statement of David S. Adams**  
**Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**July 19, 2011**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

It is an honor to appear before you today as President Obama's nominee to serve as the next Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the Department of State. I am grateful for and humbled by the confidence the President and Secretary Clinton have demonstrated in me by this nomination.

I must admit that after a 24-year career as a Congressional staffer, I am far more accustomed to sitting in the seats behind members rather than testifying before them. But I want to assure you that my experience as a staffer will inform my work, if confirmed. I consider myself a creature of the institution and am proud to have spent most of my career working in the Congress. It is this deep appreciation and respect for the role of Congress that I will take with me to this new job, if confirmed.

With the Committee's indulgence, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my mother and father for all the support they have provided to me over the years. The foundation they established during my childhood gave me the tools to get here. I would also like to thank my wife Andrea whose love, support, and encouragement is with me at all times.

As you are well aware, this year has been an especially challenging one for the State Department, the Administration and the nation. The challenges and opportunities presented to us by the Arab Spring, in addition to our ongoing work in the frontline states of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, require the Department to be in ever closer communication with the Congress. The magnitude of such change means that if we are to be successful, there must be a true partnership with the Congress. It is a responsibility I take very seriously, and I commit to you that I will do everything I can to continue the close working relationship between the Department and Congress, if confirmed.

The Department of State's Bureau of Legislative Affairs is not a policy bureau, but rather, is the place where the Legislative and Executive branches interact. If confirmed, I see my role as more than just a messenger between the State Department and the Congress. I see my role as a facilitator; an interpreter, if

you will, to help Department officials understand the views and needs of the Congress while providing the Congress with clear and concise information about the Department and its policies.

The Bureau is also a constituent service operation, a role with which you are all familiar. The State Department has two offices on Capitol Hill, including one in the Senate Russell Building, ready to assist you and your staff. You can count on the Bureau to help constituents with lost or stolen passports, sort out visa issues, or provide travelers with up-to-date information about countries around the world - you can also rely on the Bureau to assist when constituents need help overseas in emergency situations. If confirmed, I will continue to ensure that the Bureau provides a ready resource whenever your constituents require assistance.

As a former member of this chamber, the Secretary understands and appreciates the shared Constitutional responsibilities in the oversight and execution of U.S. foreign policy. She places a high priority on the Department's relationship with the Congress, and I pledge to you, if confirmed, I will work to ensure that the Congress has timely and accurate information it needs to carry out its role effectively.

Thank you again for opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to answering your questions.