

Opening Statement of Patrick Pizzella
Nominated for Deputy Secretary of Labor
July 13, 2017

Thank you Mr. Chairman;

Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning. I want to thank you and your staff for all the courtesies shown to me as I have prepared for this hearing.

Before I begin I would like to recognize my wonderful wife Mary Joy (MJ) who is joining me today; she herself previously served at the Departments of Energy, State and the General Services Administration.

I want to express thanks to my parents who are no longer with us, but as members of the “greatest generation” would be very proud today.

Probably most importantly I would like to pay a special thanks to all four of my late grandparents. Who more than 100 years ago, unable to speak, read or write English all got on separate boats and decided to come to America from somewhere in Italy. And because of their courageous journey I sit in this chair today.

This is the fifth time a President of the United States has nominated me for a position of public trust. I am honored to be nominated by President Donald Trump for the position of Deputy Secretary of Labor, and if confirmed, I will do my best to advance the President and Secretary of Labor Acosta's agenda for America's workforce.

The Department of Labor's mission is to foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights. With a discretionary budget of about \$10 billion dollars and mandatory budget of \$34 billion dollars and over 15,000 employees, the challenges, are large.

My first experience at a federal agency was in 1981 and since then I have spent almost 25 years in the Executive Branch at seven different agencies. I believe the nearly eight years I spent as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Administration and Management from 2001 to 2009 has prepared me well for the position this committee is considering me for today.

I will try to answer your questions, and if confirmed, I look forward to working with all of you.

Thank you.