

**STATEMENT OF LISA M. GOMEZ
NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND
PENSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE**

OCTOBER 7, 2021

Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Burr, and Members of the Committee, it is my honor to appear before you today as you consider my nomination for Assistant Secretary of the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). If confirmed, I am committed to serving and protecting the participants and beneficiaries in America's employee benefit plans. I will dedicate myself to carrying out EBSA's mission of ensuring the security of the retirement, health and other workplace-related benefits of America's workers and their families.

I thank President Biden and Vice President Harris for this tremendous opportunity, and Secretary Walsh for his support of my nomination. I am thrilled at the possibility of being able to contribute in a meaningful way to the important work of EBSA, the Department of Labor and this Administration.

I'd like to extend my love and deep gratitude to my amazing children — my daughters, Tina and Alyssia, and my son Adrian. I wish they could be here in person - they are and will always be my greatest accomplishments and the sources of my inspiration to make a difference and lift others up. I am forever thankful to Alex, my devoted husband, for always being by my side as my most ardent supporter and friend, as he is here with me today. I want to also thank my family, friends and colleagues--and my parents, Linda and Lou, for the tremendous love and support they have surrounded me with, especially during this process and as I move towards this incredible new chapter.

I was raised in a working class family and was the first to attend college. While I wasn't sure what I wanted to do in life, I knew I wanted to work to protect others and make a difference. In law school, I learned about the struggle to protect America's workers and their hard earned benefits. I came to understand that my dad, who worked for a small printing shop and my mom, who worked at a local uniform supply company after being home with us, did not have most of these basic protections. Despite years of hard work, they did not have any form of workplace retirement benefits to provide security in later years. It was not until my father was within a few years of retirement that he had any opportunity for a pension benefit.

I've spent the last 27 years, my entire legal career, representing employee benefit plans. My work has focused on protecting the benefits of workers and their families, and helping them to understand their benefits. It has also centered on counseling plan sponsors so that they comprehend and appreciate their responsibilities to participants and their families. My

extensive experience with plans covering employees and employers in a broad and diverse range of industries, with different concerns and needs, has given me a fuller understanding of how to serve them best.

Over nearly three decades, I have found that my substantive experience in the law must work hand-in-glove with managing challenges and empowering people. One of the rewarding aspects of my work is bringing parties with competing interests to consensus.

To now have the honor of this nomination and the opportunity to serve and contribute on behalf of all Americans is an unbelievable dream job. A key strength I bring to this position is my ability to assess difficult situations, see the clear path forward, and bring the parties to reach the end goal. Bringing people towards practicable, workable solutions, I strive to have people sincerely feel heard, no matter the ultimate outcome. My end goal is to help EBSA carry out its mission and do its part in building back better.

If confirmed, it would be an honor to work with everyone at EBSA, the Department, the related agencies, Congress and this Administration to make EBSA's mission a reality.

Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins said, "There is always a large horizon.... There is much to be done.... It is up to you to contribute some small part to a program of human betterment for all time." It would be my privilege to do so through this role.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.