

Opening Statement for the Nomination of Anthony D’Esposito as Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Labor

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Members of the Committee and the American people,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. It is the honor of a lifetime to be nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve as Inspector General of the United States Department of Labor.

President Trump has always made one thing clear: government exists to serve the people—not itself. Under his leadership, we witnessed record job creation, real wage growth, and a historic commitment to the American worker. He exposed the bureaucratic rot, shattered the status quo, and put America First. I am proud to support his agenda, and I am even prouder to carry that mission forward through the work of the Office of Inspector General.

My life has been defined by service. I have committed my adult life to protecting Americans and upholding public trust. That commitment started in Island Park, where I served for 26 years in the Island Park Volunteer Fire Department—including as Chief during Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. When everything collapsed, we stood tall—no salaries, no headlines—just service.

I then served over fifteen years in the NYPD, rising to the rank of Detective. My work dismantled gangs, took hundreds of illegal firearms off the streets, and helped put violent offenders behind bars. I led the groundbreaking Operation Tidal Wave—the first in NYPD history to integrate digital technology and social media to bring down two warring gangs. We arrested 43 criminals. We made neighborhoods safer. We changed how police work gets done across the nation. Over the course of my service, I made over 700 arrests and was awarded more than 50 medals for bravery, dedication, and excellence.

Whether wearing the uniform of a firefighter or the famous gold shield of an NYPD detective, I never once asked about a victim’s race, religion, politics, or income. I just responded to the call and helped. Because that’s what real public servants do. And I bring that same mindset with me today.

I served as a Councilman and Deputy Supervisor of America’s largest town, managing a \$500 million budget, overseeing over 3,000 full-time union employees, and driving results across more than 25 departments. I served as a Member of Congress. I sat on Homeland Security, House Administration, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees and chaired the Emergency Management and Technology Subcommittee. I was named the 11th most bipartisan Member of the 118th Congress.

Throughout my career, I’ve built strong, respectful relationships with organized labor. I’ve been a union member my entire adult life and worked **side by side with union leaders** as both an elected Councilman and Member of Congress. Together, we passed **pro-worker legislation**, defended worker rights, and prioritized fair wages and safe conditions—not partisan talking points, but real-world results.

If confirmed, I will bring that same grit, independence, and accountability to the Department of Labor. We will go after waste, fraud, and abuse—not in press releases, but in results. We will protect the rights and safety of workers—by ensuring our laws are followed, our dollars are respected, and our programs actually serve the people they’re meant to help.

My priorities will be clear: enforce fair wages, safeguard working conditions, confront labor trafficking and exploitation, and ensure that taxpayer money is never used to enrich fraudsters or political cronies.

But I won’t lead from behind a desk. I’ve made a commitment to visit every Inspector General office across the country to hear directly from the rank and file. They are the backbone of this mission—and they deserve to be heard, empowered, and supported.

I also bring a unique asset to this role: strong, trusted relationships across Capitol Hill. I understand how this institution works. I’ve earned the respect of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. That trust will be essential in delivering meaningful oversight and transparency—not just talk, but action.

President Trump has made it clear—this is the golden age of the American worker. But we will never fully reach that promise unless we root out the inefficiencies, corruption, and bureaucratic rot that stand in the way. That’s the job of an Inspector General. That will be my mission.

From the streets of the small Village of Island Park to the halls of Capitol Hill, I’ve dedicated my life to making America safer, stronger, and more accountable. Now, I’m ready to bring that same relentless focus to the Department of Labor.

I will work with each and every one of you—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—to make this office a model of integrity, independence, and effectiveness.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to your questions and to earning your trust in the days ahead.