

Opening Statement of Brittany Bull Panuccio
Nominee to be a Member of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
July 16, 2025

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to appear today as a nominee to serve as a Commissioner on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. I am grateful to President Trump for the opportunity to serve and contribute to the EEOC's important work preventing and remedying unlawful discrimination.

I would also like to thank and honor my family. First, thank you to my husband, Jesse, for the sacrifices he continues to make for me to pursue a career in public service. I would not be here today without his support and wise counsel. He is a devoted father to our daughter, Lilia, who is the light of our lives and is—for everyone's benefit—napping at home.

Thank you to my parents, David and Leslie Bull, for raising me to love God and this country and for the innumerable sacrifices they made for their children. Through my parents, I have witnessed the blessings and challenges of owning a small business. My father worked tirelessly to provide his children with so many more opportunities than he had. My mother has shown me how to be a Proverbs 31 woman and gracefully balance motherhood and a career. I strive to be a role model for my daughter, as my mother is for me.

Finally, thank you to my brother and sister-in-law, Ryan Bull and Jordan Fowler, for their love and support.

While in law school, I interned in the EEOC's Chicago District Office. So this is a full circle moment for me to be here today—a decade later—as the President's nominee for EEOC Commissioner.

Congress has given the EEOC a critical mission: preventing and remedying discrimination in our nation's workplaces. This mission reflects foundational promises of this great nation—that all Americans are inherently created equal and are entitled to equal treatment under the law. Americans have the right to be treated in the workplace as individuals, not members of a particular race or group, and to be judged on the content of their character, skills, and abilities rather than the color of their skin or their sex. These values have always been important to me.

I have committed my career to civil rights, equal opportunity, and public service. After graduating from college, I served as a Teach for America Corps member. I taught 8th grade at Miami Edison Middle School in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood. My service was rooted in the belief that all children—regardless of their zip code—should have equal access to an excellent education.

After law school, I practiced labor and employment law, litigating cases involving a wide variety of laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. I devoted most of my pro bono practice to representing a student with severe disabilities seeking reasonable accommodations from his public school.

I also had the privilege of learning from two esteemed jurists: The Honorable Neomi Rao on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the Honorable Don R. Willett on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

During the first Trump Administration, I served at the U.S. Department of Education in the Office for Civil Rights and the Office of the General Counsel. I advised senior department officials about legal and policy issues related to antidiscrimination laws and regulatory reform. I am proud to have co-authored the 2018 Title IX Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which was the precursor to the 2020 Final Rule that the Department enforces today. Among other things, the Final Rule prescribes a consistent, transparent, and unbiased grievance process for resolving formal complaints of sexual harassment.

I currently serve as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Our jurisdiction covers the neighborhood where I taught 8th grade many years ago. I vividly remember visiting one of my students in the hospital after he was shot six times. And I work each day to ensure my former students, their families, and their neighbors can live, work, and go to school in a safe environment. As a member of the Appellate Division, I litigate and argue civil and criminal appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. These cases cover a broad subject matter, including employment law.

I personally understand the importance of civil rights laws and equal opportunity. As a child, I was diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, and I have benefitted from disability accommodations during my educational and professional career. I know firsthand how an accommodation as simple as having two sets of textbooks—one for home and one for school—can help ensure equal access to education.

My interest in laws related to sex discrimination also stems from personal experience. While studying abroad in Spain during college, I was raped. For years, I saw his face when I closed my eyes. Felt his hands holding me hostage. Heard his footsteps always behind me. But I have seen God's goodness even in the worst of times. God has given me multiple opportunities to turn my pain into purpose, and if confirmed, I will continue to passionately defend women's rights as a Commissioner on the EEOC. My personal experience underscores the importance of preventing discrimination because the remedies the legal system provides—while important—only go so far in making a victim whole again.

I am committed to the EEOC's mission of preventing and remedying unlawful discrimination and advancing equal opportunity for all.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.