

Rosario Palmieri
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Labor for Policy
Senate HELP Committee Testimony

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary for Policy at the U.S. Department of Labor. I am deeply grateful to the President for this extraordinary opportunity and for the trust in my ability to serve the American people.

Before I begin, I want to thank the people who have supported me and who inspire me every day. My mother, father, step-mother, step-father, and my brothers and sisters are a constant source of strength and encouragement. I would not be here today without their love and support.

My passion for public service and my commitment to the American worker are rooted in my family's story. My parents, who never had the opportunity to attend college, worked tirelessly to ensure their children were afforded the opportunity of an advanced education. My family members have pursued careers as entrepreneurs, in healthcare, research, and hospitality, demonstrating the varied paths to the American Dream that they have pursued.

I am named for my great-grandfather, Rosario, who came to this country from Italy in the early 20th century. He was a proud Italian immigrant who built a life for his family with his own two hands, working in construction and manufacturing before he saved enough to open his own small business, a grocery store. His relentless hard work and entrepreneurial spirit taught our family that with grit and determination, the American Dream is within reach for everyone.

My other great-grandfather, William, came to this country from Ireland and settled in Western Pennsylvania. He worked in a coal mine and later worked in the steel mills of Pittsburgh, the city where I grew up. My hometown's history is inextricably linked to manufacturing and industry, and because of this, the strength and security of the American worker have always been a part of my story.

These men worked in the very industries that have been the backbone of our economy. They were the wage earners and job seekers the Department of Labor was created to serve. Their experiences, from the demanding work of coal and steel to the promise of owning a small business, have given me a personal understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our workforce today.

This background, combined with more than two decades of professional experience in both the nonprofit sector and government, has prepared me for this role. For more than 15 years, I served manufacturers as a leader in trade associations, where I worked to advance American manufacturing. My legal training, combined with my experience in regulatory policy at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), has given me a deep appreciation for the Office of Policy's vital role as the Department's central hub for evidence-based policymaking and for managing its regulatory work. I understand the important work of the U.S. Congress, having previously served as staff on committees in the U.S. House of Representatives where I had the opportunity to conduct oversight of regulatory

agencies and their impact on manufacturers and small businesses. Throughout my career, I have dedicated myself to understanding the relationship between workers, employers, and government, and I have worked to build consensus and deliver results.

I believe, as does Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, that the federal government's priority must be to put the American worker first. If confirmed, my guiding principle will be to serve the American workforce by ensuring a level playing field so that everyone has a fair shot at a family-sustaining career. I promise that my door will always be open. My goal is to work with the incredible team at the Department of Labor to support a resilient and prosperous American economy for generations to come.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I look forward to your questions.