

Scott A. Mugno
Nominee for the Assistant Secretary of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murray, and distinguished members of the Committee. I appreciate your valuable time in conducting this hearing.

It is an honor to be here as President Donald J. Trump's nominee for Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. I thank the President for the nomination and Secretary Alexander Acosta for his recommendation and support.

Of course I thank my family, friends and colleagues who are here today or watching today's hearing for their support and love.

In particular, and with me here today is my best friend and wife of thirty four years, Sharon Bedell Mugno. Our life's journey has been amazing and much of that is because of her. Our two daughters and son-in-law were unable to attend today but Madeline and Will Boulware and Kaitlin Mugno are watching and here in spirit with us.

Nothing was going to stop Marilyn Mugno, my mother, from traveling from Cape Cod to be here today. So I thank my sister Cheryl Mugno and brother-in-law William Trompeter for ensuring Mom traveled here safely as well as both of them being here to support me as well. I am also pleased their son, my nephew, Luke Trompeter could be here.

I am also grateful for the support and love of my sister Denise Dorado, Sharon's parents, Alice and Bob Bedell as well as the guidance from my cousin, COL Howard Wayne Crawford, Jr., U.S. Army Retired, all who are watching today. Finally, I have no doubt Anthony Mugno, Jr. – Tony – my father, is watching from above and is very proud today.

Many have asked me why I am interested in this position. The answer is easy. First, to serve my country again. I did so earlier in my career in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. That service launched me on the successful career path that brings me here today. Should I be confirmed, this tour of duty will allow me to give back to my country using all the experiences it gave me the opportunity to have over the years.

Second, in the safety profession, there is no higher calling and few higher positions than this one. The opportunity to fulfill OSHA's mission to assure safe and healthful working conditions for all working men and woman is an honor and noble work. If confirmed, I will work hard every day – side by side with the best safety professionals at America's ultimate safety department, OSHA - to fulfill that important mission.

Safety professionals – regardless of what sector they come from – all have the same goal: Safety. The discussions or debates on how to reach that goal can, at times, lead some to believe one side or another doesn't believe in the goal. Nothing could be further from the truth. A top priority of mine is to lead and facilitate transparent discussions between those safety professionals in our mutual quest to fulfill the goal.

I also want to assure you my experiences have given me a fairly rounded view of the safety arena. For instance, I fully respect the role organized labor has played in the safety arena over its history. In my first safety position within the FedEx organization, my safety team and I worked with the Flight Safety Department and the Pilot's Union to address and resolve hazardous materials issues. We also worked with them on infectious disease prevention and control during the 2009 pandemic. This collaboration and mutual respect is vital to making America's workplaces safe. Lastly, when I was in college and before I went to law school I worked in Macy's Department Store in Queens, New York. I belonged to Local 1-S, AFL-CIO and for the better part of the last year there, I was the Shop Steward for my department. And yes, I wrote grievances and some of them for safety issues.

As the discussions I had with some of you last week revealed, the issues are many, they are diverse and as we all know, the resources limited. If I am given the opportunity to serve, I look forward to working with all of you, and Secretary Acosta to make the workplace a safer and healthier place while always abiding by the OSHA mission and its laws.

I look forward to your questions and I again thank you for this opportunity today.