

**Statement for the Record of John P. Carlin
Before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
February 25, 2014**

Thank you, Madam Chairman, Vice Chairman Chambliss, and distinguished Members of the Committee.

It is an honor to appear before you today, and I thank you for considering my nomination. I know this Committee has many demands on its time, and many pressing issues before it.

I want to thank the President for his confidence in nominating me, and the Attorney General for his support. It is an honor to be considered for this position, and an opportunity for which I am very grateful.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my family for their love and support over the years. My wife, Sarah, who has made countless sacrifices to allow me to pursue a career in public service, and our daughter, Sylvie, for her tolerance for the many evenings I have missed at home. My parents, Patricia and Roy, for teaching my sister and me by lesson and by example, the importance of dedication, discipline, and always doing what's right. My mother- and father-in-law, Jura and Stuart Newman, for their love and support for me and my family. I also want to thank my sister Jennifer, my brother-in-law Don, and their children, Daniel and Katie, for their support. Because of all of them, and their selflessness, I have been able to choose the path that has led me here today.

I have been privileged to have spent my entire legal career with the Department of Justice. For more than a decade, I have learned from, and worked alongside, legendary public servants as the United States undertook fundamental changes in our approach to combating the threat of terrorism and other emerging national security challenges. While serving as FBI Director Bob Mueller's Special Counsel and later, as his Chief of Staff, I worked with the lawyers, policymakers, and leaders who helped the Bureau evolve from a law enforcement agency into a threat-based, intelligence-driven national security organization. As Principal Deputy and Chief of Staff to Lisa Monaco, now Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, when she was Assistant Attorney General, I had the chance to help lead another evolution – one in which the Justice Department's National Security Division continued to adapt to meet the growing and evolving cyber threat, and further developed its all-tools approach to disrupting a growing range of national security challenges.

These experiences taught me significant lessons about the responsibilities of national security lawyers in our government, and about how individuals in these roles can shape the way that we protect the American people. And those lessons have only been reinforced during the approximately 11 months in which I have been fortunate to serve as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security. As I have said before, but cannot say enough, I have been both humbled and driven by the responsibilities and mission entrusted to me in this role.

The Assistant Attorney General is charged with leading the Department's National Security Division, which Congress created to unite the Department's national security elements to bring all tools to bear in the fight against terrorism and other threats to national security. NSD lawyers play an indispensable role in ensuring that the Intelligence Community is able to consider all legally available options to detect and disrupt threats to our nation's security while scrupulously adhering to complex and evolving legal requirements. If confirmed, I will remain committed to supporting this all-tools approach, and to ensuring that as we adapt our intelligence practices to stay ahead of our adversaries, our critical operations are conducted within the bounds of the law and consistent with our nation's values. I recognize that these values include protecting vital civil liberties, privacy, and the rule of law.

The Division serves as a bridge between the Intelligence Community and the Department of Justice, to support the approach Congress embraced when it removed legal and structural barriers to information-sharing among intelligence and law enforcement professionals. This bridge has allowed us to maximize our disruption options and offers our best chance to prevent the next attack. If confirmed, I will build on the relationships that I have made during my time in the national security community, so that the bridge we have worked so hard to build remains strong and grows stronger.

I also appreciate the importance of effective oversight in ensuring accountability. This Committee performs an essential function in overseeing intelligence activities of the Intelligence Community, and I am committed to building and maintaining a strong, cooperative, and productive relationship with you to help promote the shared goals of oversight and accountability.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.