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Mr. John Dever
Nominee for the Position of
General Counsel to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Statement for the Record
Before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
June 25, 2025

Chairman Cotton, Vice Chairman Warner, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee for General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. I would like to thank President Trump and Director Gabbard for their trust and confidence in me.

Being here today feels like the culmination of the American dream. My Mom is a first-generation American from Spain and my Dad was a second-generation American from Ireland- only in America.

Like most kids, I did not know how fortunate I was to have the parents I did. Their focus on education, as well as their ever-present kindness and love, remains a constant blessing. Thank you for everything Mom, and I know Dad is watching down and smiling.

Thank you to everyone who helped me prepare for today. Especially my potential future colleagues at the ODNI Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Legislative Affairs, with special thanks to Tommy Bryan and Amber Keyser. To Alex Bustamante, thank you for being prepared to introduce me today.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my wife, Bridget, and my son Johnny. Bridget, without your love and encouragement none of this would be possible. Thank you so much for wholeheartedly supporting our most recent- but certainly not our last- adventure. Johnny, you mean the world to me- we are so proud of you, and I can't wait to suffer through some White Sox games together this summer.

As a former Soldier, both enlisted and commissioned, I understand firsthand the repercussions of flawed intelligence. How it can be used to let slip the dogs of war and change the course of history on a global scale. How it can mean wasting our most precious national resource, and, closer to home, how it means that my friend Tom Casey will never see his family again.

I am very grateful to the Army for what it taught me as well as for the incredible Soldiers with whom I served, including Alex Bustamante, Shawn Harkins, Wes Street, Josh Eaton, and now, Chris Fox.

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I saw firsthand, during multiple combat deployments, that it is during the most dangerous and stressful times, under tremendous pressure, when cool heads and reasoned judgement are most needed. How we comport ourselves at those critical moments is what truly differentiates us from our enemies. During those difficult times, and easier ones, the Constitution of the United States must be our guiding light.

Assigned to write the Counter-resistance and Interrogation Policy after the Abu Ghraib scandal, I know how enforcing the right thing is not always popular, but it must be done- and that is exactly what Director Gabbard expects of me if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed.

At the FBI I learned the tremendous array of tools and power of the Intelligence Community and how important it is to wield that power in a lawful way. I met many talented and dedicated public servants and will work hard in support of Director Gabbard's goal of earning back the trust of the American people.

As a federal prosecutor I worked on data exfiltration issues and began to fully understand the existential threat posed to the United States by the People's Republic of China.

As Global Crisis Management Leader at General Electric I led large multi-national teams, honing my risk management skills through every conceivable kind of disaster- natural, financial, reputational and regulatory. That experience reinforced the importance of culture- critical when working with 18 different agencies, each with unique cultures of their own.

I spent a considerable amount of time as a compliance executive at multiple financial institutions. I learned to assess compliance programs, develop and govern them in highly regulated and complex environments. This skill is sorely needed in the IC to ensure we are conducting ourselves in accordance with our statutory requirements and the expectations of the American people. I worked for a wonderful and very gifted leader, Lourdes Paredes, and led many efforts in honing risk appetite.

We de-risked very large banks of individuals abusing the US financial system, to include Russian oligarchs. Such de-risking was often very unpopular, but it was always the right thing to do- and we did it. During this time, I helped establish the Center for National Security and Human Rights Law in Chicago.

Most recently, my brother James and I started an enterprise risk and cybersecurity company. We helped clients protect themselves against Advanced Persistent Threats- nation state actors and transnational criminal organizations. I spent a considerable amount of time co-leading a non-profit dedicated to helping Veterans who are transitioning out of the military and their families attain family-sustaining jobs in cybersecurity. These

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experiences position me well to provide advice and thought leadership on technical issues where the law lags.

If confirmed, I look forward to leading the dedicated and talented lawyers and support staff in the General Counsel's Office in providing Director Gabbard and the ODNI with timely and accurate counsel on the many challenges and opportunities we face. To that end, I look forward to a very open and fruitful relationship with Congress. I also look forward to collaborating with lawyers across the Intelligence Community to address novel legal issues and to help ensure that the Community's equities are presented effectively.

Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, and Members of the Committee, I commit to you, if afforded the opportunity to serve once again, I will do everything in my power to carry out this important office to the best of my ability and earn the nation's trust every single day. Thank you again for your consideration, I look forward to your questions.

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