

**Nomination of Mrs. Pamela Hughes Patenaude,  
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management,  
to be  
Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development  
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development**



**Hearing Before the Committee on Banking, Housing  
and Urban Affairs**

**United States Senate**

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**Prepared Testimony of Mrs. Pamela Hughes Patenaude  
Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development – Designate  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Sarbanes, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is an honor and a privilege to appear before you today as President Bush's nominee for Assistant Secretary for the office of Community Planning and Development at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Thank you Senator Sununu and Senator Dole for your friendship and kind words of introduction. I am delighted to introduce my wonderful family who has helped make this day possible. Joining me here today is my husband Chuck and our incredible daughters Caitlin, Meghan and Jennifer, my mom and dad, Bob and Estella Hughes, my brother Kevin Hughes and my cousin Judy Weners. Also here today are many of my colleagues and dear friends. Thank you all for your love and support.

President Bush and Secretary Jackson have built a tremendously qualified team at HUD, and it has been an honor to serve with these dedicated individuals over the past three years. If confirmed, I will be fortunate to be following in the footsteps of Deputy Secretary Bernardi whose leadership in the Office of Community Planning and Development has been truly outstanding. I intend to build on the successes he has achieved.

Today, as the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management, I provide the leadership and direct oversight of the Department's eighty field offices. I am also responsible for the coordination of Presidential and Secretarial initiatives, including the expansion of minority homeownership opportunities and the promotion of solutions designed to bring an end to chronic homelessness.

I look forward to working with the many dedicated professionals in the Office of Community Planning and Development to continue to work toward accomplishing the goals of HUD's strategic plan.

Thanks to the President's homeownership agenda and the leadership of this committee, homeownership has reached historic levels. Nearly 70 percent of American families own their own home and for the first time in our history, more than 50 percent of minority families proudly claim the title of **homeowner**. Progress has been made but the minority homeownership gap remains and it is far too wide. I am committed to continuing HUD's work that will one day make the American Dream equally accessible to all.

President Bush has challenged the nation to end chronic homelessness by the year 2012. In the past two years, more than 150 city, state, and county governments have joined in this endeavor by developing their own 10-year plans. Last year, HUD distributed a record \$ 1.3 billion in competitive homeless assistance grants. These grants

provided nearly 700,000 individuals with the housing and services they needed to become self-sufficient .... and begin their journey toward a place they could call home.

I share the President's commitment to homeownership, because I too believe that ownership is the key to stronger, healthier communities and financial independence. The Office of Community Planning and Development is central to HUD's continued success in the expansion of an ownership society.

I have the utmost confidence in my ability to fulfill the duties of Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development. I bring twenty-two years of housing and economic development experience to this position and an understanding of the HUD organizational structure and programs and I have a genuine appreciation and respect for the policy making oversight roles of the legislative branch.

My deep commitment to the mission of HUD was ignited during my college internship at the Department more than twenty years ago. I have the enthusiasm, leadership qualities and proven track record to make an immediate and positive impact as the Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development.

I am sincerely grateful to President Bush and Secretary Jackson for the trust they have placed in me. I will honor this trust through commitment, tenacity and a steadfast sense of duty. If confirmed, I pledge to work in concert with the committee in promoting sound and efficient housing and economic development initiatives to meet the needs of our Nation's cities and communities.

My heartfelt thanks to the Members of the Committee for affording me this opportunity today.

I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.