

**BEN DEMARZO OPENING STATEMENT**

Nominee for HUD Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Senate Banking Committee  
June 12, 2025

Thank you Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and members of the Committee.

I would like to thank President Trump for nominating me for this important position and Secretary Turner for his support and leadership. I would also like to thank my wife Britt for her support and our son Elliott, who just celebrated his first birthday.

The role of HUD's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (CIR) is to serve as HUD's primary liaison for federal, state, and local officials. If I am privileged enough to be confirmed, my goal will be to provide support for Congressional offices by helping you resolve issues for your local officials and constituents.

I received my Master's degree in Public Policy from Rutgers University in 2011, and I have spent the past fourteen years working for state and federal officials. I most recently served as chief of staff for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where I was on the requesting side of assistance from HUD and other federal agencies.

I saw firsthand the importance of being able to provide answers and guidance from federal agencies for our mayors, county officials, and state representatives. I was very appreciative of the knowledgeable and responsive staff in the congressional affairs offices I worked with during my time in the House.

I served all four years during the last Trump Administration at HUD, and I plan to serve all four years of this administration at HUD because I am passionate about providing support for state, local, and tribal officials.

I enjoyed traveling with Secretary Carson to 36 states to meet mayors, housing authority leaders, state officials, and the residents HUD serves. I look forward to continuing that service under Secretary Scott Turner, who is passionate about the mission of HUD.

In my prior service at HUD, I was fortunate to develop great working relationships with leaders in HUD's program offices. If confirmed, my goal will be to problem-solve and cut through red tape to ensure that your local officials receive the answers they need from HUD.

My top priorities will be constituent services, technical assistance on legislation, and open communication between the Department and your offices. I will work to build a team that is dedicated to that mission.

If confirmed, I promise to provide every federal, state, and local official with the support from HUD that they need to properly serve their constituents.

Thank you once again Mr. Chairman for your leadership and to the members of the Committee for your time and consideration.