

**United States Senate  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
September 4, 2025**

**Testimony of Benjamin Hobbs  
Nominee for Assistant Secretary, Office of Public and Indian Housing,  
Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Thank you, Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to sit before you today as the nominee for Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I am honored to be here, and I look forward to partnering with all of you to ensure low-income Americans have access to decent, safe, and affordable housing and are put on a path towards self-sufficiency.

I would first like to thank President Donald Trump and Secretary Scott Turner, for the nomination and their confidence in me to return to the Office of Public and Indian Housing in its most senior role.

I also want to extend my gratitude to my former boss, Chairman Scott, for the opportunity to work as a part of his staff here in the U.S. Senate.

As the current Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for PIH, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the entire staff of PIH who conduct themselves with professionalism and work tirelessly to improve our programs.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my lovely fiancé Madison, my parents Fred and Rebekah, my brother Jacob, and all my friends who are here today offering their unwavering support through this process and my career in public service.

Growing up in the small town of Alliance, Ohio, my family instilled in me the values of hard work, faith, and cheerful service to others.

I remember fondly my first job helping Papa bale hay in the summer, going to Sunday school with Grandma, and doing regular community service projects with my Boy Scout troop.

Growing up, I also witnessed poverty – and how some of our best intended welfare programs often stifled the work ethic and family formation of some of my peers.

My upbringing ignited in me a passion for public service and a drive to improve the social safety net to help low-income Americans on a path to self-sufficiency.

I am currently on my second tour of duty at HUD PIH. During the first Trump Administration I served as the senior advisor and drove the development and implementation of several policies – including the 2016 expansion of the Moving to Work demonstration program and HUD's effort to reposition Public Housing to a more sustainable platform.

Later in the first Trump Administration I served on the Domestic Policy Council as a Special Assistant to the President and was the Council's lead on affordable housing, economic development, welfare, and homelessness.

It was in this role where I first met and worked with now Secretary Scott Turner on the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council and implementing the regulations for the Opportunity Zone tax incentive.

I have also been blessed to work as a congressional staffer in both the House and the Senate.

While on staff for Chairman Jason Smith at the House Ways and Means Committee, my work focused on policies that promoted work, self-sufficiency, and Tribal sovereignty.

At the committee, I helped draft and pass several pieces of bipartisan legislation that strengthened work requirements for welfare and expanded tribal sovereignty in the child support program.

While serving now Chairman Scott, on the Committee on Aging, our work focused on Chairman Scott's "Opportunity Agenda" to uplift millions of Americans.

My policy dedication and background in housing, welfare reform, economic development, homelessness, older Americans, persons with disabilities, and tribal affairs in both the legislative and executive branch have prepared me well to serve as the next Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing.

In my current role at PIH, I have made it a priority to get outside of the beltway and hear from our stakeholders, residents, and staff.

I have met with tribes, residents, and public housing authorities around the country, including visits to Massachusetts, South Carolina, North Carolina, Ohio, New Jersey, Alabama, New York, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Alaska, and the District of Columbia.

On these trips I have heard and seen both heart-warming and heart-breaking stories.

Heart-warming stories of a resident who transformed her life and moved from being a resident to the now deputy director of a housing authority.

Heart-breaking stories of a resident who has lived her entire life in deteriorating public housing, from birth to her now senior years.

If confirmed, I commit to you that I will work tirelessly to ensure we dramatically increase the number of heart-warming stories and put an end to the heart-breaking stories.

I will do everything I can to execute Secretary Turner's vision to ensure our housing programs are a trampoline for residents on the path to self-sufficiency, address the deteriorating conditions of Public Housing, and strengthen oversight and accountability of Public Housing Authorities.

Thank you, Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and distinguished members of this committee.

I look forward to your questions.