

Opening Statement of Craig W. Trainor
Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
June 12, 2025

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Warren, and distinguished members of this Committee, it is an honor to appear before you as President Trump's nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

I want to first thank President Trump for the confidence he has placed in me by nominating me to serve in this critical position within the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I also want to thank Secretary Turner for his strong support of my nomination and his continued servant-leadership at the Department.

Most important, I am so grateful for, and want to thank, my beautiful wife, Goli, for her unwavering support over the last eight years. I would not be here today without her continuous encouragement.

Finally, I want to mention our gift from God, our beautiful daughter, Story, who will be five years old this summer. She is the center of our little family. Given her fierce independent streak—and what I mean by that is she might decide to interrupt the Chairman to play at the dais—we thought it best to keep her in school today. But I hope she will watch this hearing one day and be proud of her father.

Mr. Chairman, I am a first-generation college and law school graduate who grew up in a proud working-class family in Brooklyn, New York. My late father worked with his hands, a civil servant for the City of New York for almost 30 years, and a decorated Vietnam Veteran in the United States Army. My mother, whom we lost to cancer when I was 17 years old, was a homemaker who became a secretary once her two sons were old enough for latchkey treatment. We didn't have a lot of money—we had a lot of arguments—there was a lot of yelling—but not a lot of money.

What my parents lacked in material resources, however, they compensated for with a strong work ethic and a lot of common sense. They taught me many lessons, but two of the most important ones have informed my life's work.

First, everyone—no matter their race, faith, or status—should be treated equally and with dignity.

Second, when the powerful run roughshod over the powerless, those who can do something about it must.

I am convinced that these lessons are what attracted me to a life in the law, generally, and civil rights and criminal law work, specifically.

When I started my law practice, I made handling appointed criminal cases a priority, so that I could represent indigent defendants and ensure that they received the same zealous representation that their better-off contemporaries did.

In my civil rights and criminal defense practice, I had represented hundreds of poor and struggling men, women, and even children who found themselves entangled in New York City's complex justice system. In each case, my clients received the aggressive legal advocacy to which they were entitled, and the results that I obtained for them demonstrated that commitment.

In 2021, I brought my years of legal experience to the nation's capital to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans. First, I joined the America First Policy Institute as Senior Litigation Counsel, where we worked to defend the rule of law and restore the supremacy of the individual against government overreach. I then had the privilege of serving as Senior Special Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary under the energetic leadership of Chairman Jim Jordan. The Committee's work exposed large-scale discriminatory actions waged against certain Americans, either through weaponized law enforcement or proxy censorship.

Which brings me to my nomination to serve as the next Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

Discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, and disability is illegal under the Fair Housing Act; it is morally reprehensible; and it undermines our shared identity as Americans. It not only creates arbitrary barriers to homeownership and limitations on individual choice about where one chooses to live or not to live, but also demeans the dignity of the individuals subjected to discrimination who, in some cases, may not have the means to address it.

With my years of experience as a civil rights litigator, criminal defense lawyer, trial attorney, congressional oversight counsel, and current acting head of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, I am ideally suited to lead HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

If confirmed, I will faithfully apply and vigorously enforce the law as Congress intended. I will work tirelessly to eliminate the scourge of housing discrimination from American life and to recover the American Dream of homeownership for our fellow citizens. And I will work with all the members of this Committee in those efforts.

I look forward to answering your questions.