

Senator Chuck Grassley
Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing on the Nomination of Carolyn Colvin
Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration
December 9, 2010

Ms. Carolyn Colvin has been nominated by the President to be the next Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

I would like to welcome you to the Finance Committee today. I know you are eager to get started in your new job.

The position of Deputy Commissioner is like the position of Vice President. You must be prepared to take charge at a moment's notice. But absent an unfortunate vacancy at the top, you have such duties and responsibilities as the Commissioner shall delegate.

As Deputy Commissioner you will have the opportunity to participate in key decisions at the highest levels. Your previous experience at Social Security will serve you well in your new position. Your advice and leadership will contribute greatly to the success of the agency.

These are challenging times for the Social Security Administration. Rising unemployment, the retirement of the baby boomers, and the aging of its workforce have all forced the agency to do more with less. Unfortunately, growing concerns about the rising federal debt have limited the prospects for increased administrative funds. I look forward to hearing your ideas to find new ways to reduce overhead and improve efficiency.

If you are confirmed I look forward to working with you as a member of this Committee to protect and improve the Social Security program.