

Testimony of Corey A. Tellez
Nominee to Serve as Deputy Under Secretary/Designated Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for
Legislative Affairs
Nomination Hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance
January 31, 2024

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Members of the Finance Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for the position of Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. I want to thank President Biden and Secretary Yellen for their support, as well as Senator Durbin for his generous introduction.

I also would like to thank my family: my mother, stepfather, and sister, who have provided unconditional love and encouragement; my fiancé, Mike, who supports me in ways big and small every day; our daughter, who has brought more joy to our lives than we could've imagined; and an amazing group of friends that have encouraged me, counseled me, and kept me humble.

At a young age, I was fascinated by the stories of people who shaped our country and communities. Before I knew that public policy could be a profession, I was drawn to the idea of creating laws to improve the community in which I grew up. My sister and I were raised in the south suburbs of Chicago by a single mom who sacrificed tirelessly to ensure we had what we needed. She taught us by example to always act with honesty and integrity in our personal and professional lives. Helping to create and implement policies to improve the lives of working families like ours has motivated me every day.

After law school, I moved to Washington, D.C. to see the work of Congress first-hand. Like many congressional staffers, I started as an unpaid intern, working a second job to make ends meet. Over the next five years, I had the opportunity to work for three House members—Congressman Cuellar from Texas, Congresswoman McCarthy from New York, and Congresswoman Halvorson from Illinois. I thank these members for trusting me to serve their constituents and for teaching me how the legislative and executive branches work together in practice to best serve the American people. Whether I was working with constituents on grant applications or managing a team advancing legislation, I experienced the importance of this partnership and valued the close collaboration with Democratic and Republican administrations on issues big and small.

In 2011, I joined Senator Durbin's office, where I served for nearly 11 years as his Economic Legislative Assistant, Legislative Director, and Deputy Chief of Staff. I was proud to work on behalf of constituents in Illinois, where most of my family resides and where I still consider home. I will always be grateful to Senator Durbin and his incredible team who embody what it means to dedicate your life to helping others.

During my time in the Senate, I spent many long hours, late nights, and weekends working with others to find common ground, often on challenging issues under short deadlines. Having grown up in a large family with diverse views, I understand the importance of respectful debate and discussion. Relying on the values instilled in me by my family, I developed relationships with

staff on both sides of the aisle who, like me, were motivated to improve people's lives, even if we had different ideas about how best to do so.

When I joined Treasury's Office of Legislative Affairs in 2022, I brought with me lessons learned over a sixteen-year career on Capitol Hill. To name just a few, the value of bipartisanship, the willingness to compromise, and the importance of an open line of communication between Congress and the Executive Branch. During my time at Treasury, I have been accessible and responsive to Members of Congress and their staff and, if confirmed, I look forward to continuing to be a partner to you and your colleagues across Congress.

Finally, I want to thank your staff. Their hard work makes a hearing like this possible, and I appreciate the professionalism they have shown me. I look forward to continuing this engagement if I am privileged enough to be confirmed.

I look forward to your questions.