

**TESTIMONY OF CHRISTI A. GRIMM
BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

Good morning Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and members of the Committee. I thank Senator Warner for the gracious introduction and Senator Kaine for his kind statement of support. I thank the President for nominating me to serve as the Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services. I am honored to appear before the Senate Committee on Finance as it considers my nomination.

I believe that public service is a calling—a calling to which generations of my family have responded through military and other public service. I draw inspiration from my family’s commitment to serve this country and improve Government. As a child growing up in Edgewater, Colorado, I watched my grandfather, the head of the Public Works Department, strive to improve the infrastructure of that small town. I saw his pride when water could reach the homes of hardworking families, when parks were well maintained, and when new roads and sidewalks connected the community. I was proud of how he made our town better. It is personally meaningful for me to continue this tradition of ensuring that Government works for the people it serves. I thank my family, each and every one, for their inspiration. My husband, Drew, a Federal law enforcement agent, is with me today. Drew, thank you for being my partner as we try to model public service for our 4-year old daughter, Hazel.

I also want to recognize the many mentors who have generously shared their wisdom, support, and time during my career at HHS; these mentors include Ellen Vinkey, Jodi Nudelman, Larry Goldberg, Giovanna “Joanne” Chiedi, and Daniel R. Levinson. I thank them for seeing and cultivating my potential. I commit every day to do the same for future leaders.

Inspectors General perform an essential public service. They root out fraud, waste, and abuse and help make programs more efficient and effective. It is critical to have Inspectors General who understand the value of objective and independent oversight. Through independence, objectivity, and transparency, Inspectors General help Government better serve the American

people. A strong Inspector General makes a stronger Department and a stronger, more trusted Federal Government.

With more than 20 years of executive branch service and more than a decade of holding top management and strategic positions within HHS-OIG, I offer unique qualifications to lead this agency. I have been performing the duties of the Inspector General since January 2020, directing oversight of HHS's COVID-19 pandemic response while transitioning a workforce of over 1,600 professionals to a mostly virtual environment. We have not allowed unprecedented challenges to disrupt our mission, and we have excelled in productivity, employee satisfaction, and maintaining standards of excellence.

If confirmed, I will be honored to lead HHS-OIG's mission-driven team of program integrity experts. I am deeply committed to ensuring that we remain a modern organization with a high-performing, diverse, and inclusive workforce. Continued investment in data analytics and information technology will ensure that HHS-OIG's dedicated professionals have the tools they need to succeed.

I am steeped in the disciplines central to the work of an Inspector General. I understand the everyday challenges of ensuring program integrity. If confirmed, I will deliver practical results to help address the most consequential issues facing HHS: financial integrity of HHS programs; access, quality, and safety of care, including for some of our Nation's most vulnerable populations; safeguarding public health; appropriate administration of HHS programs at the Federal and State level; and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse that harms people and diverts critical resources.

OIG's work is vital to ensure that HHS programs deliver the services and outcomes that Congress intends, and that beneficiaries and taxpayers deserve. If confirmed, I will maintain strong partnerships with stakeholders, including the Department of Justice, HHS, the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, States, and other law enforcement agencies so that we can continue our fight against fraud, waste, and abuse. And I will continue a rigorous program of

audits and evaluations that aim to drive positive change for HHS programs and the people they serve.

If confirmed, I will uphold the Inspector General's dual reporting obligations to Congress and the Department. That includes my commitment to inform Congress as HHS-OIG conducts its work and to be accessible to Senators, Representatives, Committees, and your staff.

As a career public servant who rose through the ranks, I am humbled and honored to be considered for the position of Inspector General. During my career, I have marshaled experience in the craft of oversight and the art of leading a high-performing workforce. It would be my privilege to serve and lead HHS-OIG, an organization to which I am deeply committed.

I thank the Senate Committee on Finance for considering my nomination and for its strong support of independent and objective oversight. I look forward to answering your questions.