

Opening Statement for Christine Toretti
Nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
July 15, 2025

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and distinguished Members of this committee,

It is an honor to appear before you today as the nominee for the position of U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden. I am deeply grateful to President Trump for the trust and honor he has placed in me with this nomination. I am committed to serving the United States with dedication and integrity, and I look forward to working closely with this esteemed committee to advance our nation's interests in Sweden.

It is a humbling experience to be nominated for a position such as this. I am confident my experiences in business, philanthropy, and public service have prepared me for this moment.

Before going further however, perhaps my greatest accomplishments are what I consider to be my greatest gifts: my sons Joe, Max, and Matthew. I am proud of the men they have grown up to be. The three of them are my pride and joy, and my concern for their future motivated my political activism many years ago. I am so glad to have Matt here with me today.

My journey to sitting before you today began in 1990, when I assumed leadership of our family business – the S.W. Jack Drilling Company – following the passing of my father. Despite the many barriers I faced as a young woman finding my way in a male-dominated field, I succeeded and continued to forge a career deep in leadership experience, business acumen and volunteer service. Today I am the Chairwoman of the S&T Bank Board – a board I have been proud to serve on since 1987. Less than 10% of publicly held companies are chaired by women, while my tenure as chair is going into its seventh year.

Throughout my adult life I have sought to bring my experience in business to support a wide range of nonprofit organizations, from underpinning the creative arts to director of the NCAA to the Vice Chairman of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

For those of you who know me, you know I care deeply about creating opportunities for women in the workplace and the community. I am proud to have founded numerous programs that train and nurture women in the political arena. I have lived my adult life seeking to provide women opportunities to succeed – a passion which has been a defining characteristic of my adult life.

As a native of rural Pennsylvania, serving my community has always remained at the forefront. I have spearheaded many economic development projects, including the construction of an Urban Outfitters distribution center in my county, and was the inspiration for the creation of an osteopathic school in the university located there. If confirmed, I am eager to bring those experiences to bear as the U.S. Ambassador to Sweden.

If confirmed, my primary goals will be to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Above all, I will prioritize the safety of American citizens living or traveling in Sweden, providing them with the support and protection they deserve. I will strengthen our economic ties with Sweden and ensure that American businesses have fair opportunities to thrive in the Swedish market. I will cooperate with Sweden to tackle global challenges, drawing on our respective strengths to address the multifaceted threats posed by China, Iran, and others.

Sweden's recent accession to the NATO Alliance marked a significant milestone in European collective defense efforts. Sweden brings a wealth of defense capabilities to the table, including a robust defense industrial base that is renowned for its innovation and technological advancements. The Swedish Armed Forces are highly capable and well-equipped, and its expertise in advanced military technologies and experience operating in harsh environments will enhance our ability to respond to emerging threats.

If confirmed, I will work closely with our Swedish counterparts to ensure that our defense cooperation grows stronger.

Economic priorities will also be at the forefront of my agenda as Ambassador to Sweden, if confirmed. I will seek to close the trade deficit between our two nations and deliver on President Trump's America First foreign policy. By promoting American exports and encouraging Swedish investment in the United States, Sweden can create jobs and stimulate economic growth in the United States. I will encourage collaboration between American and Swedish businesses, researchers, and entrepreneurs, ensuring that both our nations benefit from the advancements in cutting-edge fields.

I also want to recognize the role Sweden played in America's growth. Today, over 3.3 million Americans trace their family roots to Sweden. Swedish Americans have made significant contributions to our cultural, economic, and social fabric. They have enriched our society and fostered a deeper understanding and appreciation of Swedish culture. These bonds, along with ties forged through trade, travel, and defense, contribute to a unique, vibrant, and growing relationship.

In conclusion, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the United States Ambassador to Sweden. If confirmed, I am committed to advancing our nation's interests, strengthening our bilateral relationship, and serving the American people. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I welcome your questions.