

Testimony of Todd M. Wilcox
Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
September 3, 2025

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Sheehan, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today, seeking your advice and consent regarding my nomination to be the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security.

It is worth noting the sacrifices of the spouses and families of all who step up to serve our country. I would like to recognize a few people here with me today and to address the stakeholders of my nomination.

I have been Christine Wilcox's husband for nearly 20 years, and it is her strength as the center of gravity for our family that allows me to serve in such a critical and demanding role. Christine, I acknowledge and appreciate the level of sacrifice you will endure as I step up to serve our country once again and all that you have sacrificed over the years, throughout the harrowing and sometimes death-defying paths that I have taken. You are and always have been the love of my life.

To my daughters, Tori, Danielle, and Hayden. You are my pride and joy. Being your father has been the most gratifying and purposeful part of my life. You have taught me about unconditional love. I am proud that you have learned by my example, one that is captured in a speech by Teddy Roosevelt, known as the *Man in the Arena*: "It is not the critic that counts but that the real credit belongs to the man (or woman) who is actually in the arena," actively engaged in challenging endeavors, experiencing both triumphs and setbacks. All three of you have chosen your own challenging endeavors, while avoiding the path of least resistance. I am so proud of you.

I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Rubio for giving me the opportunity to serve our country in such an important role. I am honored to

be nominated and eager to become a part of this administration's winning team. I will lead with honor, distinction, and loyalty. I will not let you down. To the men and women of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, I am honored to lead such an exceptionally professional cadre of special agents, security engineering officers, security technical specialists, diplomatic couriers, uniformed protective officers, and support personnel.

I see this as a command position. You will quickly recognize that my command philosophy includes leading by example, leading from the front, and being technically and tactically proficient. I will hold everyone accountable to high standards of performance, including myself, and I accept responsibility for all that happens or fails to happen in our bureau.

Once confirmed, I will move quickly to build a high-performing leadership team that will foster a culture and esprit de corps, emphasizing mission and disciplined execution in a working environment that rewards learning, adapting and innovating.

Our mission is critical to the execution of exceptional American diplomacy by providing embassy security operations, dignitary protection, and law enforcement support. I will ensure that the bureau's personnel, resources, and organizational structure are shaped to revolve around these three primary lines of effort.

To that end, there will be change, but know that my leadership team and I will thoughtfully assess every aspect of our operations and infrastructure before making that change.

The world is a very dangerous place, and we are here to defend, protect, and serve the Department and America against very determined enemies. We will certainly face significant challenges, and there will be crises. In those moments, you should know that your lives and your well-being mean more to me than my own. I am eager to take command, and I look forward to working with all of you.

To Members of the Committee, I thank you in advance for your candid and professional assessment of my qualifications to fulfill this nomination. I have been asked several times why I am seeking this nomination. Frankly speaking, it is the hardest job for which I am qualified. Over the past 35 years of my professional life, time and again, I have demonstrated the ability to build high performance teams that can accomplish nearly impossible missions with limited resources. If confirmed, I will bring these qualifications to bear as I lead the team of highly qualified Diplomatic Security professionals in support of the President's America First Foreign Policy.

My motivation to serve can be underscored by the words in the Book of Isaiah: "Here am I; send me!" I respectfully urge this committee and the Senate to work diligently to advance and confirm the President's nominees. I look forward to answering your questions and, if confirmed, to working with all of you. Thank you.