

Written Statement of Scott P. Brown
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
May 16, 2017

Chairman Corker, Ranking Member Cardin, and distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as President Trump's nominee to serve as the United States Ambassador to New Zealand and the Independent State of Samoa. I want to thank President Trump for his trust and for giving me the opportunity to represent the interests of the United States of America in these two wonderful countries.

In addition, I want to express my gratitude to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for supporting this appointment, and I very much look forward to working with him and his team to achieve our foreign policy goals in the months and years to come.

Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to appear before this honorable committee. As a former member of this body, I want to say thank you to Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Senator Shaheen and Senator Hassan, among others, for their early indication of support for my candidacy.

Before I begin, I would like to express the thanks of me and my family for the patience, mentoring, guidance and friendship that Senator Collins has shown me over the years. Not only is she my sister Robin's U.S. Senator in Maine, but she has been someone that I have had a great amount of love and respect for over the years. I want to thank her for her dedication to public service and commend her for her 6357th consecutive vote in the US Senate. It is a record that will not only increase, but will be exceedingly difficult to break. Thank you Senator Collins.

For well over 30 years, I have served my town, state and country in many different appointed and elected capacities. I served in the military for almost 35 years, joining the Army National Guard at the age of 19 after the big blizzard of 1978. After that tragic storm, I saw how our Massachusetts National Guardsmen saved the lives of our citizens, inspiring me to emulate their call to service. Soon thereafter, I raised my hand and took the oath to serve, and joined as an enlisted man. During my time in the military, I was branch qualified as an Infantry Officer, Quartermaster Officer, and a Judge Advocate General. Two years ago I retired at

the rank of colonel, with my last four years of service being at the Pentagon as the Deputy to the Chief Legal Counsel for the Joint Chief of the National Guard Bureau. During that time at the Pentagon, my team and I wrote the sexual assault regulations and set up the investigation teams that are being used today in the National Guard with great effectiveness and results.

In addition, I have been an attorney in private practice since 1985, and I am confident that, if confirmed, I can bring the interpersonal skills and problem solving ability that I have honed in that role to my new role as Ambassador.

In public service, I was honored to serve as a town Assessor, Selectman, Massachusetts State Representative and State Senator. From 2010-2013, I served with most of you as a United States Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During my time in the U.S. Senate, I served on the Committee on Armed Services, as the Ranking Member on Airland, on the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and as the Ranking Member on Federal Financial Management, Government Information and International Security, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

I was proud to have been recognized as one of the most bipartisan Senators during my years here. Among the accomplishments I am proud of, I worked with Senator Gillibrand to pass the Stock Act – which stops insider trading for members of Congress – Senator Carper on good government and fraud, waste and abuse issues, Senator McCaskill to pass the Arlington Cemetery Bill, and many other Senators on the Hire A Hero Veteran's Bill, the elimination of the 3% withholding, no contracting with the enemy, and re-authorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and more.

For someone like me, whose mom and dad were married four times each, living in 17 homes by the time I was 18, being an abuse survivor and my family being periodic welfare recipients, I remember my mom having to work two to three jobs to keep a roof over our heads to keep my sister and me safe. For me, becoming a U.S. Senator was not only unlikely, but without a doubt was one of the greatest honors of my life. Being asked to serve again as an Ambassador to two great countries is another great honor.

However, no matter what jobs I have had throughout my life, or political or civilian capacities for which I served, there is one experience that trumps all other accomplishments. That is being married to my partner and wife of 30 years, Gail

and being the father to our two children Ayla, a country music star living in Nashville, and Arianna, a third year Veterinary Student at Cornell University. With the Chairman's permission, I would like to introduce those members of my immediate family who are with me.

Intro - Gail, Ayla, Arianna, Jimmy, mom.

Mr. Chairman, when the President asked me where I would like to serve, the posting in New Zealand and Samoa was my first choice.

I am honored to be considered for the posts in New Zealand and Samoa and excited for the opportunity to serve in Asia-Pacific because of the region's incredible importance to the world's security, economic prosperity, and innovation opportunities. There is great potential for us to improve and strengthen our ties in all of those areas.

If I am confirmed as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, I will do all I can to grow our ties with New Zealand and Samoa and ensure stability, security, and prosperity for our three countries. With the help of our diplomatic and national security professionals at the State Department and in all other parts of our government, I will advance American interests and support these two longstanding partners.

New Zealand has historically been an unwavering friend of the United States. That long and remarkable history has had its challenges, but hard work and strong communication efforts have made our ties even stronger. The U.S.-New Zealand relationship has also been strengthened due to New Zealand's commitment to our shared war against terror as well as reconstruction and stability efforts in the Middle East. I would like to publically thank the citizens of New Zealand and especially the men and women of its armed forces. If confirmed as Ambassador, I will help to deepen our security relationship.

I have had the opportunity to visit China, Taiwan, and Japan. Visiting those places, as well as my cumulative experience in government and military service, has given me a firsthand understanding of the region. Chinese military and economic expansion, as well as the North Korean nuclear threat, pose a challenge to American interests in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. There are many important areas in which we need to work with our partners in New Zealand, to properly deter potential conflicts in this region.

Just as there are challenges in the Pacific region, there are also opportunities. The United States is one of New Zealand's top trading partners. If confirmed, I hope to dramatically assist in the promotion of even greater economic, scientific, and cultural exchanges between the United States and New Zealand, including strengthening Pacific cooperation. With regard to investments, I will focus on both New Zealand's investment in the United States, and American investment in New Zealand.

I am also committed to assisting in increasing bilateral trade and commerce opportunities, assisting with the illegal fishing concerns, and recognizing and helping to solve environmental issues. In addition, I look forward to working on cyber security issues, and ensuring strong intellectual property protection and enforcement as we address our mutual priority intellectual property issues. Above all, my greatest responsibility will be to assist and protect the interests of U.S. citizens who are either living in or visiting New Zealand and Samoa.

I feel truly honored to be nominated by President Trump to represent the United States as Ambassador to two such culturally and economically diverse countries. If confirmed, within the first two months of service, I plan to visit the independent State of Samoa, which shares a maritime border with the United States. The Independent State of Samoa and parts of American Samoa have experienced serious environmental disasters, including a devastating tsunami that destroyed many parts of the islands. Being an island state presents many different challenges and opportunities. If confirmed, I plan to learn and try to understand how the United States can assist Samoa and strengthen our relationship. That relationship was enhanced in 2012 when both countries signed a Mutual Law Enforcement Agreement, which allows Samoan maritime officials to utilize U.S. Coast Guard and Navy Vessels in policing Samoan waters. We will continue to work in cooperation on maritime issues, including putting a stop to the trafficking of drugs and human beings and halting illegal fishing. For over 50 years, the Peace Corps has maintained a vibrant and necessary assistance program in the country and I look forward to learning more about how we can assist even more.

As you are aware, American Samoa has a strong cultural and geographic bond with not only the Independent State of Samoa, but also has a strong bond with Samoan communities in the United States. It will be important to cooperate closely with the American Samoan delegation to the U.S. Congress to see how we can improve trade and promote tourism and democracy.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like to say to you and the Committee, that I have had a blessed life. Being nominated to this position has been a humbling process. I pledge to you, our President and the American people that I will work tirelessly and professionally to faithfully represent American interests in this Ambassadorial position, and in whatever capacity I am called to do so.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, and I would be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.