

November 30, 2022

**Testimony of Dr. Kimberly A McClain
Nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs**

Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Toomey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would first like to thank President Biden for nominating me to serve as Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I would also like to thank Secretary Fudge for her support of my nomination. Thank you also to this Committee for holding today's hearing and meeting with me over the past few weeks. I look forward to working with this Committee on our nation's housing issues. If confirmed, you have my pledge that I will bring to bear the same commitment to service and nonpartisanship that has guided my 30-year career in the United States military, private, and public sectors.

For the last twenty-two months, I have been blessed to serve my fellow Veterans, their caregivers, and their survivors as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). I am proud to support VA's work on access to benefits and care for all Veterans and their families.

I bring to this role a deep knowledge of government and understand how to work across large organizations, agencies, and Congress to tackle challenges and deliver results. My leadership experience in the non-profit, private, and public sectors has provided me with the unique background to serve in this role. But just as important, I have seen firsthand the positive impact of access to affordable housing and economic mobility on people's lives.

My childhood was filled with fond memories of going to my paternal grandmother's home on weekends. When my Grandma Freeman could no longer live in her home due to health issues she moved into a subsidized duplex in a Rockford, Illinois neighborhood called, "The Terrace". That same neighborhood became home to my maternal grandmother after the death of my grandfather. My Grandma Williams transitioned from being a lifelong stay at home mother to a high school and college graduate, and ultimately a librarian. The Terrace provided my grandmothers with a sense of dignity and independence in the midst of major life changes.

Life happens to all of us. And as life is happening, nobody should have to wonder where they will lay their head down at night. I am keenly aware of the struggles that homeowners and renters are facing. I am committed to working with Congress and the constituents it serves. If confirmed, I will do everything within my power to ensure that those who are most in need have an advocate and a voice at HUD.

The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations serves as an important force multiplier for HUD and a critical conduit for communicating HUD's initiatives, programs and priorities to Congress, state and local elected officials, Tribal leaders, and the Senate and House Committees with jurisdiction over HUD. To successfully accomplish HUD's missions, if confirmed, I will focus on three core areas:

- First, ensuring that the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations is empowered and equipped to be agile and responsive,
- Second, increasing the capacity and continuity of the Office's workforce to deliver exceptional customer service;
- And finally,
- Developing strong, trusted relationships through consistent communication and engagement.

I am ready to take on the HUD mission and work alongside HUD teammates in service to our nation. If confirmed, I will lead as I did during my career in public service and as an Air Force officer...

"Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All I Do"

Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Toomey, and Members of the Committee, thank you once again for the privilege to appear before you and the opportunity to serve my country.

I look forward to answering your questions.