

**Statement of Jonathan McKernan, Nominee to be a Member of the Board of Directors of
the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Before the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the United States Senate
November 30, 2022**

Chairman Brown, Ranking Member Toomey, and members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you today. I am humbled to have been nominated to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). I am grateful to the President for entrusting me with this nomination, to Senator Corker for giving me my first job as Senate staffer, and to Ranking Member Toomey for giving me another opportunity to continue public service here in the Senate.

My wife, Sapna Sharma, is here with me today. She and I met on the Hill when we were both starting out as congressional staffers. Despite serving on different sides of the aisle, Sapna and I quickly found common ground in our shared passion for the ideals that make this country great. Five years later, we have two boys, 20-month-old Patrick and 4-month-old Jonathan. I hope that together we will instill in our children a love of country and public service, while also teaching them to find common ground with others who have different worldviews.

My parents, Patrick and Victoria, are here today from East Tennessee. My father is a former Navy pilot and sales representative. My mother is a retired schoolteacher and homemaker. From my parents I learned the importance of hard work and perseverance, as well as an attachment to reading and learning, that together have provided a solid foundation for life. My brother Paul and his wife Kensie are here today as well. Both are also former Senate staffers, having met while working for Senator Alexander. My brother Jason and sister Christine also are with us virtually.

I believe my 15 years in financial services law, regulation, and policy have prepared me well to support the FDIC in its work to maintain stability and public confidence in the nation's financial system. My first role in government was as an advisor to Senator Corker on banking matters, including this Committee's bipartisan S.2155 reform legislation and the Senator's efforts to negotiate bipartisan housing finance reform legislation. I then served as an advisor at the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), and am now on detail from FHFA to this Committee. I have immensely valued my time here and believe this Committee represents the best of those in public service.

Before joining Senator Corker's staff, I worked for more than 9 years as a banking lawyer. My time in private practice began just as the 2008 financial crisis was beginning. We all watched as hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars were spent bailing out "too big to fail" financial institutions, millions of homeowners were wiped out by foreclosures, and almost every American family suffered in some way through the economic fallout that followed. The aftershocks of the crisis still reverberate 15 years later. Many American families will never recover the lost generational wealth. Many others remain convinced the system is rigged against them.

That experience left me with an enduring conviction that we as a society must have a strong financial regulatory system that ensures we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. The FDIC's mission therefore resonates deeply with me. If confirmed, I would be strongly committed to ensuring the FDIC does its part to maintain a resilient financial system. I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your questions.