

Statement of Rebecca Joy Kelly Slaughter
Nominee, Federal Trade Commission
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
April 11, 2018

Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and Members of this Committee, it is my profound pleasure and privilege to be here today in order for you to consider my nomination to be a member of the Federal Trade Commission. I want to particularly thank your staffs for their hard work in processing paperwork to get my nomination onto today's hearing panel. And I would like to acknowledge my fellow Commissioner nominees who are here in the audience. I have very much enjoyed getting to know them and really look forward to working with them if I am lucky enough to be confirmed. And finally, I want to thank my boss, Senator Schumer, for the faith he has placed in me as a member of his staff and especially in recommending me for this nomination.

I would like to briefly introduce some of my friends and family who have joined me here today, without whose support I would be both literally and figuratively lost. My parents, my Aunt Barbara Kummel, and my brother Matt Kelly all traveled here from New York. And, perhaps most conspicuously, my children are here. Teddy is five and a half, Eloise is three and a half, and they are now happily joined by their brand new baby sister Pippa who is about nine and a half days old. Balancing the joys of raising them and a challenging professional career is possible for me only because of the boundless love, support and skill of my husband Justin – himself a Senate staff alum.

The Senate has been my professional home for nearly a decade; over that time, I have had the honor of working with many of the members of this Committee and your staffs on a wide variety of legislative and oversight endeavors. I have strived to serve my boss and his constituents – the people of my home state of New York – doing work I find meaningful and important. And I have taken enormous pride and pleasure in being able to find opportunities to reach across the aisle and forge bipartisan consensus on challenging policy problems facing consumers and markets.

The issues I have most enjoyed working on here in the Senate – the protection of consumers and the promotion of free and fair markets - are the ones at the heart of the mission of the Federal Trade Commission. Those issues have been important for the American people throughout the century the Commission has been in existence, but perhaps never more so than now. Today, technological innovations in rapidly changing markets pose new and daunting challenges to enforcement in both competition and consumer protection. I am humbled and honored to be considered to help continue the Commission's storied legacy of work for the American people, and I look forward to answering your questions.