

Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 117th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Susie Feliz, formerly Susie Saavedra. Birth name is Susie Jerez.

2. Position to which nominated:

Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce

3. Date of Nomination:

March 15, 2022

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Place of Residence: [REDACTED]
Office Address: 1805 7th St, NW, Washington, DC 20001

5. Date and Place of Birth:

September 1, 1978, Elmhurst, Queens, New York

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

- **Spouse: Jose Feliz, Specialist Leader, Deloitte**
- **Stepdaughter: Genesis Feliz Jones, Associate Veterinarian, THRIVE Affordable Vet-Care, 28 years old**

- **Stepson: Daniel Feliz, unemployed, 21 years old**
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

- **Cornell University Diversity and Inclusion Certificate, 2022**
- **George Washington University, Master of Public Administration, 2002**
- **The University of Denver, Bachelor of Arts, 2000**

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

National Urban League, 8/2013-Present

- Vice President, Policy and Legislative Affairs, 4/2018-present
- Senior Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs, 4/2016- 3/2018
- Senior Director, Education and Health Policy, 8/2013- 3/2016

U.S. House of Representatives, 9/2005-6/2013

- Representative Karen Bass (CA-37), Senior Advisor/Legislative Director, 1/2013-6/2013
- Representative Al Green (TX-09), Legislative Director, 2/2009-12/2011
- Representative Joe Baca (CA-43), Legislative Director, 1/2006-2/2009, Senior Legislative Assistant, 9/2005-1/2006

U.S. Senate, 8/2002-9/2005

- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Legislative Aide, 1/2004-9/2005, Legislative Correspondent, 8/2002-12/2003

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Intern, 6/2001-5/2002

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

National Association for Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Congressional Fellow, 6/2000-8/2000

- House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

See attached

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

None

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

- **Keystone Policy Center, Board of Trustees (2018-present)**
- **Hispanic Lobbyists Association, At-Large Board Member (Present), Vice President (2017)**
- **GW Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, Advisory Board Member (2018-2021)**

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Army Navy Country Club, 2018-present

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

- **Obama for America, Virginia Latino Vote Fellow, 2012**

Managed paid canvass team to register, educate and turnout Latino voters in support of President Obama's successful 2012 reelection. Managed a get-out-the-vote field program involving 110 Spanish-speaking volunteers in 23 high-density Latino precincts in Northern Virginia.

- **Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Field Director for Pete Aguilar CA-31 Campaign, 2012**

Recruited, trained, and managed volunteers & staff in the Pete Aguilar for Congress campaign in California's new 31st congressional district.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

Not applicable

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- **Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society**

- **The Hill Top (Grassroots) Lobbyist List: 2021, 2020, 2019**

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

Not applicable

18. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an “alias” or “handle” you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

- **Active: Twitter: @SusieSDC**
- **Active: Instagram: @susiedsaavedra**
- **Active: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Susie.saavedra.10>**
- **Active: LinkedIn: [Linkedin.com/in/susiefeliz](https://www.linkedin.com/in/susiefeliz)**

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

Not applicable

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

I have two decades of experience working on Capitol Hill as an aide to Senator Clinton, a legislative director to Representatives Joe Baca (CA-43), Al Green (TX-09), and Karen Bass (CA-37), and subsequently as the Vice President of Policy and Legislative Affairs for the National Urban League. As a result, I bring an in-depth understanding of how public policy is formulated, an extensive network across all levels of government, the private sector, trade associations, and civil society, and a track record of creating and then shepherding policy through its congressional life cycle. I have also led diverse, legislative teams for over 15 years. Finally, I bring a strong understanding of many programs being implemented at the Commerce Department including those related to broadband access, small business development, and skills training given my experience managing these issues as a congressional staffer and with the National Urban League. I am prepared to carry out the role of Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Commerce and am excited for the chance to advance job creation, economic growth, and opportunity for all in our Nation.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, my main responsibility will be to work with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Commerce as well as all leaders within the Department of Commerce to respond to Congressional inquiries in a timely manner. I would also be responsible for managing a team of legislative and intergovernmental professionals who work with Congressional and intergovernmental stakeholders every day.

I have two decades of experience working on Capitol Hill as an aide to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, a legislative director to Representatives Joe Baca (CA-43), Al Green (TX-09), and Karen Bass (CA-37), and in nonprofit advocacy as the Vice President of Policy and Legislative Affairs for the National Urban League. This experience has provided me with a strong understanding of the legislative process and the roles of Congress and the Executive Branch in public policymaking.

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

The first challenge facing the Department of Commerce is related to its strategic goal of driving U.S. innovation and global competitiveness. The Department will continue to be on the front lines of defense against foreign competitors and adversaries that engage in harmful and illegal trade practices, steal intellectual property, and permit cyber-attacks. And the Department will continue to exert its authority to facilitate trade abroad and issue trade restrictions and economic sanctions on countries that threaten U.S. national security and foreign policy interests. Finally, the Department will continue to play a significant role in revitalizing domestic production and increasing the resiliency and diversity of supply chains through investments in American manufacturing, technological innovation, research, and development.

The second challenge facing the Department of Commerce is related to its strategic goal of fostering capitalism and growth to ensure all Americans participate in the 21st century economy. This will include employing historic public investments to ensure all Americans have access to affordable broadband, workers have access to job training and wrap around services that create pathway to quality jobs and women and minority owned small businesses have the tools they need to grow and thrive. The Department will also continue to employ place-based investments to help underserved communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic get on the road to recovery and build long-term economic competitiveness.

The third challenge facing the Department of Commerce is related to its strategic goal of providing 21st century service with 21st century capabilities. This will include effectively implementing new Department

**of Commerce authorities and investments, optimizing the workforce,
and delivering exceptional customer service.**

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

- **National Urban League defined contribution plan.** The plan sponsor will not continue to make further contributions after my separation.
- **National Urban League defined benefit plan.** I will continue to participate in this defined benefit plan.
- **National Urban League bonus.** Pursuant to my employment agreement, I recently received a performance-based bonus at the end of Q1 2022 for services rendered in 2021. This bonus is \$11,200, worth 7% of my salary, and was paid on 4/13/22. I have reported this in the appropriate section below.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Designated Agency Ethics Official at the Department of Commerce to identify any potential conflict of interest. Any conflict of interest will be resolved according to the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commerce Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that will be provided to this Committee. In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department's ethics counsel and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Designated Agency Ethics Official at the Department of Commerce to identify any potential conflict of interest. Any conflict of interest will be resolved according to the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commerce Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that will be provided to this Committee. In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department's ethics counsel and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Designated Agency Ethics Official at the Department of Commerce to identify any potential conflict of interest. Any conflict of interest will be resolved according to the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commerce Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that will be provided to this Committee. In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with the Commerce Department's ethics counsel and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?

No

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

None

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes

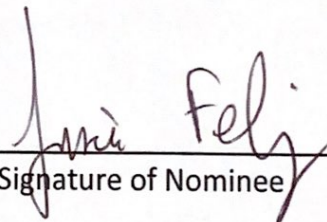
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

F. AFFIDAVIT

Susie Feliz, being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.



Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this ²⁵ day of April, 2022.



Notary Public



SUSIE FELIZ

LEADERSHIP ACUMEN

Legislation
Government Affairs
Public Policy
Advocacy
Capital Beltway network
Partnership development
Alliance building
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

EDUCATION

**Diversity and Inclusion
Certificate**
Cornell University

**Master of Public
Administration**
The George Washington
University

Bachelor of Arts
The University of Denver

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Hispanic Lobbyists
Association

Keystone Policy Center

HONORS

The Hill's Top Lobbyist:
2021, 2020, 2019

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Senior government affairs executive with nearly two decades of Capitol Hill experience working as a senior congressional aide and advocate for a national civil rights organization. Leader who has managed and coached diverse teams for over ten years. Bridge builder with a track record of success leveraging a wide network to advance economic growth and opportunity, including through policies that promote digital equity, workforce development, affordable housing, education equity, and small business development.

EXECUTIVE HISTORY

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Vice President, Policy and Legislative Affairs
Senior Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
Senior Director, Education and Health Policy

August 2013—Present

4/2018- Present

4/2016- 3/2018

8/2013- 3/2016

- Successfully leveraged an extensive Capital Beltway network across the US House and US Senate, the executive branch, in trade associations, the private sector, and civil society as a lead civil rights advocate and former senior congressional aide.
- Represented the Urban League externally through strategic advocacy before Congress and the Administration as well as through targeted education and outreach to business leaders, advocacy organizations and other key third-party stakeholders and partners.
- Led the Urban League's policy team in drafting policy priorities, developing advocacy strategies, and negotiating the favorable inclusion of legislative text in over 20 bills relating to education, housing, broadband, small business, and workforce development.
- Developed COVID-19 relief recommendations for congressional action and conducted advocacy efforts to appropriate committees, leadership, and caucuses resulting in seven new Urban League funding opportunities under the American Rescue Plan of 2021.
- Secured over six opportunities for the National Urban League leadership to testify before Congress to promote the organization's priorities around digital equity and inclusion, workforce training, small business development, and education equity.
- Formed a coalition and led advocacy efforts to advance a key Urban League education policy priority, resulting in favorable Administration guidance in support of the priority.
- Collaborated on coalition advocacy efforts to increase equitable access to broadband and devices for virtual learning resulting in the inclusion of \$7.1B for the Emergency Connectivity Fund for schools and libraries in the American Rescue Plan.
- Selected to speak as a panelist at over 20 national conferences, congressional briefings, and events on topics including education, housing, health care, and economic equality.
- Managed Urban League engagement with business, trade associations, and civil society groups to advance the organization's broadband access and digital equity priorities.

SUSIE FELIZ

CORE COMPETENCIES

► Successfully led policy and advocacy efforts with both the legislative and executive branches as a lead advocate for a national civil rights organization, utilizing extensive experience as a congressional aide in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

► In-depth understanding of how public policy is formulated. This is augmented by a track record of working with multiple stakeholders to create and then shepherd policy through its congressional life cycle.

► Have been successful in helping to establish and transform loose coalitions of non-profit, for profit and civic groups into alliances focused on achieving common public policy goals.

► Through over 15 years of experience working on Capitol Hill both as a senior legislative aide (including as a leader of the Hispanic Congressional Staff Association) and subsequently as an advocate; have developed an extensive network across all levels of government.

► Intimate knowledge of nonprofit operations from work as a senior leader for the nation's oldest and largest civil rights and community-based organization with a network of 91 local chapters in 36 states and DC.

► Comfortable and effective in crafting and delivering focused communication efforts to local and national political figures and leaders.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Karen Bass (CA-37)

Representative Al Green (TX-09)

Representative Joe Baca (CA-43)

September 2005- June 2013

Legislative Director/ Senior Advisor

Legislative Director

Legislative Director

- Led diverse teams of legislative staff in drafting, introducing, and successfully negotiating House passage of 11 bills and resolutions, 10 amendments, and over \$60 million dollars in appropriations for three members of Congress.
- Managed committee work for members of the House Judiciary Committee and House Financial Services Committee, including preparing and staffing Representatives for over 300 congressional hearings and markups.
- Advised members of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, including as the president of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association, resulting in a broad-based and diverse US House and US Senate network.
- Facilitated over 400 small group presentations with various constituents including trade associations, college presidents, state and local education officials, company CEOs, and local elected officials.

US SENATE

US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

August 2002 – September 2005

Legislative Aide

- Drafted, introduced, and secured bipartisan cosponsors and public endorsements for national workforce housing legislation.
- Represented Senator Clinton through public speaking at two national policy conferences and at business, social and public gatherings.
- Facilitated over 100 small group presentations with elected officials, community leaders, industry associations, and corporate executives on behalf of Senator Clinton to advance the Senator's policy priorities.
- Managed Hispanic outreach for a Senator representing a state with a high Hispanic population leading to relationships lasting over 15 years with national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organizations.
- Drafted memos and talking points to prepare Senator Clinton for over 50 official meetings, speaking engagements, committee events, and video productions.