

Apr 28, 2025

**Statement of Daniel Zimmerman**

**Nominated To be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs**

Department of Defense  
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, and Members of the Armed Services Committee—

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to be considered for the role of Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

I am honored by the President's nomination, and by his trust. I also thank Secretary Hegseth and Under Secretary Colby for their support.

I am humbled by Senator Hagerty's introduction and am grateful for his leadership and example.

Mr. Chairman, with permission, I will briefly mention some priorities that—if confirmed—I would anticipate meriting my full attention from Day One. The International Security Affairs role spans Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa. These theaters present many issues of consequence, which must be addressed judiciously and in ways that fully support the Department's primary goals of securing the homeland and deterring China. In my view, doing this will require:

- Cultivating strong partnerships in these regions that further U.S. interests and encourage our allies urgently to embrace greater responsibility and burden sharing—which is both in their interest and ours;
- Resolutely addressing, with allies, persistent threats to our interests such as those posed by Russia, Iran's potential to develop a nuclear weapon, and terrorism;
- And countering China's ability to project military power and influence in these theaters.

All this can and should be done in a way that advances the President's and the Secretary's America first, peace through strength agenda.

If confirmed, I would draw on almost two decades of national security experience in Intelligence, in policy roles, and in the field, where I have had the privilege to work on many of the same issues and regions involved in this portfolio. The challenges are serious, yet familiar.

Mr. Chairman, if I may introduce my family, my parents David and Beth Zimmerman are here, to whom I owe immeasurable gratitude. I would like to acknowledge my sister Tabitha and three brothers Ethan, Luke, and Nic—who along with my Dad have all served or are serving in our military. Along with their exemplary colleagues, they hold my deepest respect.

My four brave children are here—Ransom, Anchor, Haven, and Liberty. Most important, my wife Chloe is here—a constant friend without parallel, who continues to transform my life.

I am grateful for many other family and friends attending or listening today. And I give thanks my Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus.

Mr. Chairman, I love this country. If confirmed to this role, I would apply myself with all the humility, vigor and excellence our country expects and deserves—to help preserve the inestimable blessings of liberty for us and for the next generation.