

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

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**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025**

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 12:29 p.m., in The President's Room, S-216, Hon. Jerry Moran, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Moran, Boozman, Cassidy, Tillis, Sullivan, Blackburn, Cramer, Tuberville, Banks, Sheehy, Blumenthal, Murray, Hassan, and Gallego.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY MORAN, CHAIRMAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS**

Chairman MORAN. Now that we have a quorum, this business meeting will come to order.

As specified in the notice provided to Committee members, the items on our agenda today are the nomination of Hon. Cheryl Mason to be Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the nomination of Don Bergin to be the Assistant Secretary of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I will be voting in support of each of these nominations, and I appreciate their willingness to serve.

I yield to the Ranking Member, Senator Blumenthal, should he wish to make any opening comments.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, RANKING MEMBER, U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT**

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you. I note, to the disappointment of all of you who are here, I am going to submit my remarks for the record.

I will be voting no on both of these nominees for reasons that I made clear at the hearing, and I will be elaborating for the record.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Senator Blumenthal's statement for the record is attached.]

Chairman MORAN. If there are no other Committee members who wish to be heard, we will move to a roll call vote on the nomination of Cheryl Mason to be the VA Inspector General.

The clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Mr. Boozman?

Senator BOOZMAN. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Cassidy?

Senator CASSIDY. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Tillis?  
 Senator TILLIS. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Sullivan?  
 Senator SULLIVAN. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mrs. Blackburn?  
 Senator BLACKBURN. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Cramer?  
 Senator CRAMER. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Tuberville?  
 Senator TUBERVILLE. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Banks?  
 Senator BANKS. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Sheehy?  
 Senator SHEEHY. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Blumenthal?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No.  
 The CLERK. Mrs. Murray?  
 Senator MURRAY. No.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Sanders?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Hirono?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Hassan?  
 Senator HASSAN. No.  
 The CLERK. Mr. King?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Duckworth?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Gallego?  
 Senator GALLEGO. No.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Slotkin?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Chairman?  
 Chairman MORAN. Aye.  
 The clerk will tally the votes and announce the outcome.  
 The CLERK. On this vote the yeas are 10, and the nays are 9.  
 Chairman MORAN. The motion is favorably reported and agreed

to.

Next we will move to the roll call vote on the nomination of Don Bergin to be the VA Assistant Secretary of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

The clerk will call the roll.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Boozman?  
 Senator BOOZMAN. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Cassidy?  
 Senator CASSIDY. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Tillis?  
 Senator TILLIS. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Sullivan?  
 Senator SULLIVAN. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mrs. Blackburn?  
 Senator BLACKBURN. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Cramer?

Senator CRAMER. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Tuberville?  
 Senator TUBERVILLE. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Banks?  
 Senator BANKS. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Sheehy?  
 Senator SHEEHY. Aye.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Blumenthal?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No.  
 The CLERK. Mrs. Murray?  
 Senator MURRAY. No.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Sanders?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Hirono?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Hassan?  
 Senator HASSAN. No.  
 The CLERK. Mr. King?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. Aye by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Duckworth?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. Aye by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Gallego?  
 Senator GALLEG0. No.  
 The CLERK. Ms. Slotkin?  
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No by proxy.  
 The CLERK. Mr. Chairman?  
 Chairman MORAN. Aye.  
 The clerk will tally the votes and announce the outcome.  
 The CLERK. On this vote the yeas are 12, and the nays are 7.  
 Chairman MORAN. The motion is favorably reported and agreed  
 to.  
 If there is no other Committee member seeking recognition, the  
 meeting is adjourned.  
 [Whereupon, at 12:33 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

**Senator Richard Blumenthal, Ranking Member**  
**Statement for the Record**  
**Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Business Meeting**  
**Nominations of Cheryl Mason for Inspector General and**  
**Don Bergin for Assistant Secretary of Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs**  
**of the Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**June 11, 2025**

I am voting no on each of these nominations. Cheryl Mason, the nominee for Inspector General, continues to work as a Senior Advisor to Secretary Collins. She cannot be considered an independent or non-partisan nominee when she has been deeply involved in the actions of the Trump Administration for months. And her evasive non-answers at her hearing were not credible at all.

After hearing from her personally, I am more convinced than ever that she is the wrong person for the job. This committee has always worked in a bipartisan manner to support the IG's office and depend on them for accurate and impartial investigations and results. If Cheryl Mason is confirmed, that would end.

In addition, Don Bergin has worked in the Legislative Affairs office for several months now, and we continue to be stonewalled by VA. I did not hear anything to persuade me that would change if he is confirmed. Therefore, I am voting no on these nominees.