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Date: 10/11/2017 5:43:39 PM
Subject: President Donald J. Trump Nominates Kirstjen Nielsen as Secretary of Homeland Security

To Governors' Chiefs & State-Federal Reps, Lt. Governors' Senior Staff, and Interested State Stakeholders:

President Trump nominates Kirstjen Nielsen to lead the Department of Homeland Security

Nielsen is uniquely qualified to lead DHS:

- Because of her existing relationship with Senior White House staff and other Cabinet members serving as Principal Deputy White House Chief of Staff
- Her existing working relationship with Senior DHS staff and DHS agency leadership from her time serving at the Department under as former DHS Chief Gen. Kelly's chief of staff
- Extensive familiarity with DHS policy issues, Nielsen has zero learning curve:
 - o Disaster response:
 - § Nielsen drafted the National Disaster Response Framework
 - § Worked with Congress to develop the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Response Act
 - § Co-wrote the Katrina Lessons Learned report
 - o Cybersecurity:
 - § Chaired the first White House Policy Coordination Committee on cybersecurity
 - § Served as a civil expert for NATO advising on cybersecurity and the creation and use of public-private partnerships to address global risks
 - § Was a Senior Fellow at George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security
 - § In 2016 she was named by Security Magazine to be among that year's "Most Influential People in Security"
 - § Has extensive private sector practice
 - o Border and Immigration Security
 - § Led DHS efforts to implement travel related executive orders and empowered employees to enforce the law they were sworn to uphold
- Nielsen served on the Homeland Security Council under President George W. Bush, as senior director for prevention, preparedness, response

Nielsen is the first DHS employee to rise to the rank of Department Secretary

- She started at TSA soon after 9/11

- She served as the Department's chief of staff under Secretary John Kelly

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 11, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Nominates Kirstjen Nielsen as Secretary of Homeland Security

Today, President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to nominate Kirstjen Nielsen for the position of Secretary of Homeland Security. Ms. Nielsen is currently the White House principal deputy chief of staff.

Ms. Nielsen has extensive professional experience in the areas of homeland security policy and strategy, cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, and emergency management. She is the first nominee for this position to have previously worked within the Department of Homeland Security, having served there in two administrations, first as senior legislative policy director for Transportation and Security Administration under President George W. Bush and then as Department of Homeland Security Chief of Staff under President Trump. Before joining the Trump Administration, Ms. Nielsen founded a risk and security management consulting firm. She previously served as Special Assistant to the President and senior director for prevention, preparedness, and response on the White House Homeland Security Council under President George W. Bush, in addition to serving as a corporate attorney and as a congressional staff member.

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