

**Prepared Statement by Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Executive Business Meeting  
January 21, 2016**

Good morning and welcome to the first markup of 2016. Today we have a number of bills and nominees on the agenda.

Regarding the bills, we're going to hold over S. 247 at the request of Senator Cruz, H.R. 1428, and S. 483 at the request of Senator Hatch and S. 1890 at the request of Senators Hatch and Coons.

S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, is on the agenda for the first time. So it will be held over as well.

We have three nominees to be District Court Judge. They are:

- Mary McElroy, District of Rhode Island
- Susan Baxter, Western District of Pennsylvania
- Marilyn Horan, Western District of Pennsylvania

This is the first time they are on the agenda and there is a request to hold them over, so they'll be held over.

I'd note that we didn't include the other two district court nominees from Pennsylvania on this week's agenda. Those nominees didn't thoroughly answer several of the written questions we asked. We then sent follow-up written questions seeking clarification. While we are currently reviewing these responses to the follow-up questions I will say it's important that nominees respect the process and respond to the questions Senators ask.

I take seriously my responsibility to evaluate each nominee on their merits and understand how they'll approach the job.