

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Executive Business Meeting  
December 3, 2014**

Today we will be voting to report the nomination of Sarah Saldaña to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, where she will lead the office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Ms. Saldaña is no stranger to our Committee. In 2011, both of her home state senators from Texas strongly supported her nomination to be the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas. This Committee unanimously reported her nomination to the full Senate, and she was unanimously confirmed shortly thereafter.

This time around, Ms. Saldaña has continued to receive strong, bipartisan support from senators. She has earned a reputation as a tough but fair prosecutor, and her nomination to be the head of ICE was unanimously reported out of the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. We should move swiftly to confirm Ms. Saldaña to this important post.

There are also three district court nominees and the nominee to head the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) listed on the agenda for the first time today. If we could report these nominees today, we will not have to have another mark up this year.

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