

Sheriff Emery Gainey
Opening Remarks on the Nomination of Pamela J. Bondi
to be Attorney General of the United States
Senate Judiciary Committee
January 16, 2025

Good Morning Chairman Grassley and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today on behalf of United States Attorney General Nominee Pamela J. Bondi.

I am Emery Gainey, a 40-year career law enforcement Officer, who has served at all levels of law enforcement, to include serving as the Sheriff in two Florida counties.

I've had the distinct pleasure of knowing and working with Ms. Bondi since 2010.

As a member of her Senior Executive Staff; I served as her Director of Law Enforcement, Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs when she assumed office as the Attorney

General in January 2011 and I continued to serve in those capacities through her eight-year tenure as Florida's Attorney General.

To this day we continue to maintain a very close professional, personal and family friendship.

I want to speak this morning about Ms. Bondi's commitment to the just and proper enforcement of the law; demonstrated through her well-earned relationships with local, state and federal law enforcement partners throughout the United States.

During her service as a prosecutor in Florida's Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Ms. Bondi had well established and deep-rooted relationships with the local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Upon becoming Attorney General, she immediately began the process of meeting with the leaders of all law enforcement agencies throughout the state to establish partnerships to ensure the citizens and visitors to our state receive the most effective level of law enforcement and victim services available.

One critical issue that she immediately took on was the emerging proliferation of deadly designer drugs, specifically those referred to as bath salts, that our state was facing prior to her being elected Attorney General.

Ms. Bondi called together stakeholders, to include prosecutors, law enforcement, our Office of Drug Control, our state laboratory directors and others, to not only understand this new trend in our state, but to seek immediate solutions to stop the spread of these deadly substances that were taking the lives of many of our citizens.

From these stakeholder meetings, she developed a strategy and a call to action to immediately outlaw these dangerous bath salt substances. Utilizing Florida's rulemaking statutes and bipartisan support from members of Florida's legislature, she was able to permanently ban the sale of these deadly drugs; despite the continuous efforts by those who altered their formulas to circumvent Florida Law, in an attempt to keep versions of these harmful substances on the shelves of some retailers.

These actions, in conjunction with our public and private partners, began to effectively address a growing trend in illegal substance abuse in our state.

Ms. Bondi's commitment to the rule of law was also evident in her taking the lead in investigating and prosecuting crimes involving Criminal Gang Activities, Organized Retail Theft, Human Trafficking and a host of other criminal activities.

She also demonstrated her deep commitment to help restore the lives of victims of Human Trafficking through her leadership role on Florida's Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, by investing in and supporting safe houses for victims. She also partnered with multiple private businesses to help combat human trafficking, in both the sex and labor industries, by establishing a zero tolerance tool kit to train staff in identifying and reporting suspected cases of Human Trafficking.

I want to focus now on the compassionate side of her tenure, where she was - and remains a staunch supporter of crime victims and the rights of crime victims.

One of her roles as Attorney General was the delivery of crime victim services. The Florida Attorney General's Office was the recipient of and administered the third largest

annual award of Federal Crime Victim Compensation Funding, in addition to State Crime Victim Funds.

Ms. Bondi dedicated a team of experienced victim advocates, and crime compensation professionals, to work with our local governmental and non-governmental agencies to ensure victims of crime received all the benefits allowable by state and federal laws.

Her personal compassion was constantly on full display when meeting with crime victims and their families. She did so at the scene of crimes, in hospital rooms, at family relocation centers, at conferences for victims of crime, and one on one in her office.

She demonstrated her commitment to fairness and justice by not only rigorously seeking to hold perpetrators of crime responsible for their acts of violence, but she also demonstrated that same level of passion, care and empathy for those innocent citizens who found themselves; through no fault of their own, a victim of some of the most horrific crimes committed by individuals against fellow human beings.

Mr. Chairman, The United States of America and the American people would be very well served by confirming Pamela Jo Bondi as our next United States Attorney General.

Thank you.