

**Prepared Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
Hearing on the Nomination of:  
Loretta Lynch to be United States Attorney General  
Thursday, January 29, 2015**

Welcome to the second day of our hearing on Ms. Lynch's nomination to be Attorney General.

Yesterday, we heard from Ms. Lynch. I thought she was engaging and confident. And I appreciated her willingness to stay until all members had an opportunity to ask as many questions as they wanted.

She's clearly a skilled and very competent lawyer, but we didn't get very many direct answers.

So I suspect that Ms. Lynch is going to have quite a few written follow-up questions for the record. Today we'll hear from a second panel of witnesses. Many of these will speak to the many ways the Department of Justice, under its current leadership, has failed to fulfill some of the most basic aspects of its mission. The question for me and lot of Members on this side is whether Ms. Lynch is committed to leading the Department of Justice in a new direction.

We'll hear from Sharyl Attkisson, who is an investigative journalist who has been bullied, threatened – and literally blocked from entering the Department of Justice – because she had the guts to report on issues like Fast and Furious and Benghazi.

I want to know if Ms. Lynch will fix that.

We'll also hear from Catherine Engelbrecht (“Engel-Brekt”) who was targeted by the IRS simply because she's a conservative who has had the courage to stand up in defense of Freedom and the Constitution. The Department has paid lip service to the investigation it's supposedly leading.

I want to know if Ms. Lynch will take seriously the targeting of fellow citizens based on their political views.

We'll hear from Sheriff David Clarke, from Milwaukee, who will testify about how thousands of local law enforcement officers across this nation feel as though the current leadership doesn't fully appreciate the work they do every day.

I want to know if Ms. Lynch will mend that broken relationship.

And of course we'll hear from Professors Turley and Rosenkranz, who will address how the Department of Justice under Eric Holder has rubberstamped the President's lawless actions –from the unlawful recess appointments to the unlawful executive action on immigration.

I want to know if Ms. Lynch will restore the Office of Legal counsel to the impartial role it used to play as a check on the President's authority under the Constitution.

So I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses, as we continue to assess Ms. Lynch's nomination.

Now, I'll turn to Senator Leahy for his opening remarks, and then I'll call the witnesses and introduce them.