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**Prepared Statement of the Honorable E. Scott Turner,
Nominee to be Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban
Development, before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs on January 16, 2024**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to all the Members of the Committee for your thoughts, your engagement, and your ideas on rebuilding the American dream for our nation's forgotten communities. It was a pleasure to visit with nearly all of the Committee Members. I hope the conversations we had are just the beginning of what I trust will be a true partnership.

I would also like to take a moment to thank my wife, Robin, for her unwavering support over the last nearly three decades that we have been together.

And I want to thank President Trump for his confidence and for nominating me for this pivotal position.

I sit before you today as the nominee to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

But deep down, this opportunity is very personal to me.

You see, I grew up a kid in Plano and Richardson, Texas.

Who worked as a dishwasher at Spring Creek Barbeque.

Early on in childhood, whose family was broken due to divorce, with the odds stacked against him.

Who overcame adversity and bucked the status quo to attend and graduate from college.

Who, in spite of being drafted in the 7th round, went on to have a successful career in the National Football League.

Who went on to serve in the Texas State Legislature, which was a great honor.

And work in the White House to advance the Opportunity Zone initiative.

As I sit before you today, I am humbled by the call to serve my country as a member of President Trump's cabinet.

I know my upbringing and background are not completely unique. There are many in this country — some sitting in this room today — who at one point or another had to overcome adversity of all kinds. We have all been there. And recognizing this, I hope we can work together for the betterment of all Americans and the American Dream.

I share my story with you because the challenges that HUD faces are vital to our nation as well as personal to me. They're not just things I hear about and read about. These are experiences that members of my family and I have seen and lived. And that perspective is something I can bring to the table.

HUD's mission is to create strong and sustainable communities and support quality affordable homes — serving the most vulnerable of our nation.

Yet, as we sit here, we have a housing crisis in our country, where American people and families are struggling every day. HUD is failing at its most basic mission.

Take the Point-In-Time homelessness figures HUD released several weeks ago. On one single night, there were 770,000 Americans experiencing homelessness. Let that sink in: 770,000 homeless Americans. That's not only an all-time high, it's an increase of 32 percent from just two years ago. That's a national embarrassment and something that cannot continue.

As a country, we're not building enough housing. We need millions more homes of all kinds, single family, apartments, condos, duplexes, manufactured housing, you name it, so individuals and families can have a roof over their heads and a place to call home.

Then there's the HUD workforce. Every report I've seen shows HUD at the bottom when it comes to employees returning to work. We need to bring the HUD staff back to the office so that they are empowered to serve the American people.

But this moment is not just about fixing what's broken, it's about continuing and expanding the policies from the first Trump administration — policies that worked. I was fortunate to help lead the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. There, I saw firsthand the impact of Opportunity Zones, policies that give Americans in distressed communities an opportunity. A foundation. A chance to start a business. To build new homes. To be self-sustaining. To be self confident and to unleash that promise and potential that I know the Lord blesses us all with.

When I played in the NFL, we relied on game films to identify our mistakes and areas for improvement. I spent hours poring over the tapes to identify the smallest weaknesses in my game and determine what I could do to improve. The film told the story of my performance — cutting through the noise and focusing on results.

If I am confirmed as Secretary, I want to bring this same approach to the work we do at HUD because each day we have an opportunity to improve and better serve the American people.

Senators, this is a clarion call. Poverty has no party. Homelessness has no party. It doesn't see red or blue. My call is to be a steward, a champion, an ambassador. I want to lift up the stories of all the forgotten Americans. And I want to work with you to do it.

My heart is ready to serve. I thank God for allowing me this opportunity. And I want to thank all of you on the committee for your kindness and consideration.

Thank you.