

**Statement of Mark R. Meador**  
**Nominee for Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission**  
**Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation**  
**U.S. Senate**

Thank you, Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Senate Commerce Committee. It was a pleasure meeting with several of you and your staff over the past weeks, and it is an honor to be with you all today.

I am humbled by the trust and confidence President Trump has placed in me to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission, and to help implement his agenda to improve the lives of American families. Thank you for this opportunity to serve our country.

Thank you also, Senator Lee, for your very kind introduction, your unfailing support and friendship, and the opportunity to serve as your antitrust counselor not once, but twice. Your example of leadership has provided a model of public service that I will strive to emulate my entire career.

Before offering some brief remarks, I would like to recognize several people who have joined me here today.

First and foremost is my best friend, confidant, and devoted wife, Adrienne, who has joined me along with our six children: Constance, 13; Ross, 12; Ambrose, 10; Veronica, 8; Silas, 6; and John, 3. Many people have heard me say that working in the senate was the best job I ever had. But truth be told, even if I am confirmed to this position, caring and providing for the seven people seated behind me will always be my best and most important job.

Last, but far from least, I am also joined today by my parents, Brad and Elyce Meador, to whom I owe more than time permits me to recount. After my faith in Christ, the greatest gift my parents gave me was a childhood marked by unconditional love and a dedication to others.

After growing up the son of a nomadic Army officer, my dad prioritized stability for our family. He turned down other jobs to continue his career with the United States Postal Service, and always made sure there was time to teach me to golf or accompany me on camping trips. My mom was always there for us when we got home from school, even while working part-time to make ends meet, and yet somehow also found time to open a soup kitchen at our church. Thank you, both, for teaching me the value of service and how to be a loving and present father and husband for my own family.

These examples of hard work and sacrifice were deeply formative for me, and solidified my decision to embark on a career of public service.

As many of you here know, I have worked as a federal antitrust enforcer and policy advisor, including at the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and here in the Senate. And if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed to this position, I will be returning home to where I began my career: the Federal Trade Commission. To do so would be the honor of a lifetime.

The FTC plays a critical role in protecting American consumers. Its twin missions—to stop unfair methods of competition, and to protect consumers—have arguably never been more important.

President Trump is correct that America is facing an affordability crisis.

Our free-market system is the bedrock of the American economy, and yet many Americans feel that it is no longer working for them or to their benefit. They value hard work and free enterprise, but at times feel that honest competition has been replaced by concentrated economic powers that take them for granted.

A truly free market, however, requires the availability of meaningful choices for consumers. This includes the benefit of vibrant competition that leads to lower prices and higher quality. It also means acknowledging that Americans are not *just* consumers—they are mothers and fathers, neighbors and friends. Protecting competition in all of our markets is essential to ensuring that America's free market economy operates as our servant, not our master.

At the same time that American families are struggling to make ends meet, fraudulent and deceptive practices threaten not just their wealth but the well-being of their children and loved ones. Unscrupulous actors seek to profit off our children by exploiting their privacy, innocence, and vulnerability.

Chairman Cruz put it especially well when he remarked that, “today's families face a challenge previous generations could not imagine: a rapidly changing digital environment targeting our kids.” Parents struggle to navigate the maze of putatively “free” services and social media sites that impose hidden, but growing costs on their children's mental health and safety. One of the FTC's most important missions in the years to come will be using its consumer protection authority to safeguard families from those seeking to take advantage of the most vulnerable.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that the FTC's precious enforcement resources are focused on the cases most needed to protect consumers and move the law in the right direction, not wasted on pet projects that risk making bad law or distract from addressing real threats to American consumers. FTC enforcement decisions should be based on the facts and the law, and the law should be enforced vigorously and fairly.

America needs an FTC that is focused on law enforcement, provides clear guidance, and ensures the public's trust in the agency. And FTC staff need leaders who work alongside them, not just over them.

The challenges facing our economy are great, but so is our resolve. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission, I look forward to working with Chairman Ferguson and my fellow commissioners to help American consumers by fighting to protect the competitive process that keeps markets free and the families that give value to our freedom.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering your questions.