

Testimony of Russell T. Vought  
to be Director, Office of Management and Budget  
June 3, 2020

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And, thank you, the Ranking Member, and the members of the Committee for the honor of appearing before you today.

I also want to thank my family, my wife Mary and my daughters, Ella and Porter, for the unconditional support they have given me not only throughout this confirmation process but throughout my tenure at OMB.

I am honored that the President has nominated me to serve as Director for the Office of Management and Budget, following in the footsteps of some very distinguished public servants. Working at OMB has long been an aspiration. I came to OMB at the very beginning of this Administration. I have had the privilege of helping to lead this agency, first as Deputy Director and for the last year and a half as Acting Director. I know the caliber of the men and women who work there. I know the importance of their mission. I know the awesome responsibility of the work that OMB does.

My mantra at OMB throughout my years in leadership there has been “One OMB,” in order to create a culture, not of silos, but of collaborators so that the best expertise gets heard. I have had management positions in my career, but none so equally challenging and rewarding as the management of this agency. The portfolios of the various components of this agency are so diverse, and each one of a critical nature fundamental to the functions of our government.

The men and women I work with at OMB thrive on information-gathering and problem-solving. They are innovative and smart and, frankly, tenacious. They do their best work when they work together, bridging the gaps between their management and their budget and their regulatory functions to find holistic answers to complicated challenges.

There are roughly 500 full-time employees at this agency. But, I have seen them do remarkable things. It has been a privilege to work with them and to lead them for the last three and a half years. And I will consider it an even greater privilege to do that as their Director.

I have spent my entire career caring about taxpayers and their families. I have fought to save them money and ensure that their tax dollars are well spent. I come from a blue-collar family, the son of an electrician and a school teacher. I know what they went through to balance their budget and save for the future. My parents worked long, hard hours to put me through school. They worked long, hard hours to pay for the government in their lives. I have often wondered what else they would have been free to build and give without such a high burden.

My parents represent the forgotten men and women of this country. They have always been the yardstick by which I have tested government spending. And, I am grateful to work for an Administration that has made the eyes and heart of the forgotten man the lens through which we see policy.

These men and women live and work in every city and every town of every state in this great country. I believe in their dreams and I believe that our government ought to let them pursue those dreams. The very phrase, "Office of Management and Budget," may not be part of their daily lexicon, but I know that the work of OMB has the ability to impact them in immeasurable ways. If the Senate confirms me to be the Director of OMB, know that I will be serving for their betterment.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.