

## **IBIA Urges Approval of Kirstjen Nielsen as Secretary of Homeland Security**

**WASHINGTON, DC / November 7, 2017** / The International Biometrics + Identity Association today announced its support for the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to be the Secretary of Homeland Security.

IBIA believes that Ms. Nielsen’s extensive work in cybersecurity, emergency management, and combatting terrorism makes her uniquely qualified to serve in this critical position. With cybersecurity an issue of growing importance, the elevation of a cyber expert to head the agency sends a strong message about our national security priorities.

“Kirstjen Nielsen has the skills and experience we need at DHS in this critical period,” said IBIA Managing Director Tovah LaDier. “With large projects such as a new Biometric Exit system and the HART database already underway, the Department needs a steady hand. Ms. Nielsen’s public and private sector experience makes her well equipped to build the partnerships which will advance these and many other key projects.”

As Secretary Kelly’s chief of staff, Ms. Nielsen played a major role in reaching out to IBIA members, building close relationships with senior DHS officials and rank and file employees alike, and has a wealth of operational knowledge. If confirmed, she will be the first Department employee to rise to the rank of Secretary – a true testament to her distinguished record.

Given her unique qualifications, IBIA respectfully urges the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the full Senate move swiftly to confirm Ms. Nielsen as the sixth Secretary of Homeland Security.

### **About the International Biometrics + Identity Association (IBIA):**

IBIA advances the adoption and responsible use of technology-based identification solutions to enhance identity security and privacy and to facilitate convenience and productivity for government, business and consumers. For more information, please visit our website: [ibia.org](http://ibia.org).

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