



Politics

Kristi Noem out as DHS secretary; Trump announces Sen. Markwayne Mullin as replacement

By [Kathryn Watson](#), [Kaia Hubbard](#), [Camilo Montoya-Galvez](#), [Nicole Sganga](#)

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In a post on X, Noem later thanked the president for appointing her to the new role, while touting "historic accomplishments" made during her tenure at DHS.

Criticism over spending, tactics in immigration crackdown

But Noem has been under fire for months, especially as Democrats in Congress refused to fund the Department of Homeland Security after the fatal shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti amid the Minneapolis immigration crackdown.

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And he pointed out that she had hired "people who had formerly done your political work back in South Dakota." Noem told Kennedy, "That's not correct," and he shot back, "I think it is."

He went on to say that "It puts the president in a terribly awkward spot: It's just hard for me to believe, knowing the president as I do, that you said, 'Mr. President, here are some ads I cut and I'm going to spend \$220 million running them,' that he would have agreed to that."

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Noem testified that she and the president had a conversation about running the advertisements before she was sworn in and have talked about it since then. But Kennedy told CBS News that the president called him after the hearing, and said of Mr. Trump and Noem that "his recollection and her recollection are different."

"He was pissed," Kennedy said about the call her received from the president, adding, "Well, he called me the night of hearing okay about 9:30 and he was not a happy cowboy."

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During her testimony to Congress this week, Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina heavily criticized the DHS secretary for her handling of immigration enforcement. He said "time after time" he's been disappointed with Noem's leadership, calling it a "disaster." Tillis also tore into Noem for killing her dog, Cricket, a decision she wrote about in her 2024 book.

"A 14-month-old dog is basically a teenager in dog years," Tillis said. "You decided to kill that dog because you had not invested the appropriate time and training, and then you had the audacity to go into a book and say it's a leadership lesson about tough choices. It's in your book. We could play it if we had time. At that same lunch hour, you killed a goat. And you killed the goat because you said it was behaving badly. ... My point is, those are bad decisions, made in the heat of the moment, not unlike what happened up in Minneapolis."

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Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat from New York, was quick say he's "a resounding NO."

"The rot in DHS is deep, much deeper than any individual. It's a question of policy not personnel," Schumer [posted on X](#). "The Senate should not consider any DHS Secretary nominee until DHS and ICE are reined in."

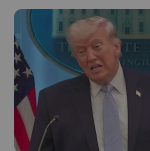
At least one Democrat offered support. Sen. John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, a member of the Homeland Security Committee, [posted](#): "I'm not sure how many fellow Democrats will vote to support our colleague [@SenMullin](#) as the next DHS Secretary, but I am AYE."

Kristin Brown, [Fin Daniel Gómez](#), Grace Kazarian and Alan He contributed to this report.

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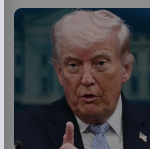
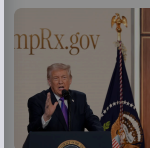
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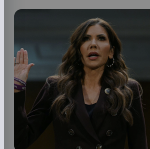
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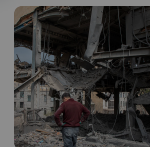
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