

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF JAMES O'NEILL, TO BE DEPUTY
3 SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; AND
4 GARY ANDRES, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION,
5 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

6
7 THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

8 U.S. Senate,
9 Committee on Finance,
10 Washington, DC.

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12 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at
13 9:59 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
14 Building, Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee)
15 presiding.

16 Present: Senator Wyden.

17
18 Also present: Republican staff: Andrew Dell'Orto,
19 Policy Advisor; and Gregg Richard, Staff Director.
20 Democratic staff: Stacy Sanders, Chief Health Policy
21 Advisor; Shade Streeter, Investigative Counsel; and
22 Tiffany Smith, Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM IDAHO, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
3

4 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

5 We meet today to favorably report the nominations
6 of Jim O'Neill, who is nominated to serve as Deputy
7 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human
8 Services; and Gary Andres, who is nominated to serve as
9 the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at HHS.

10 The meeting this morning will provide members with
11 the opportunity to make remarks on the nominees. We
12 will notify members of the time - actually, that time's
13 been agreed to: 11:30 at the first vote.

14 And during this hearing -- let me just go on and
15 say, during his hearing, Mr. O'Neill discussed his plan
16 to work closely with Secretary Kennedy to improve
17 America's health-care system. Given his previous
18 service at the Department and depth of management
19 experience in the private sector, he's uniquely
20 qualified to enact positive change at HHS. If confirmed
21 as Deputy Secretary, Mr. O'Neill will have the
22 opportunity to implement reforms in each division of the
23 Department.

24 As a veteran of Capitol Hill, Mr. Andres knows how
25 to implement successful legislative agendas and will be

1 a valuable partner to Congress at HHS. I was also
2 encouraged to hear Mr. Andres's commitment to
3 prioritizing timeliness and responding to questions from
4 members.

5 I'll be voting in favor of both nominations, and I
6 encourage all of my colleagues on the committee to do
7 the same.

8 I now recognize Senator Wyden.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 OREGON

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4 Senator Wyden. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

5 Mr. Chairman, let's start with the elephant in the
6 room: Donald Trump's so-called "big beautiful bill."

7 This week Republicans in the House unveiled the largest
8 proposed cut to the Medicaid program in American
9 history.

10 The bill takes a wrecking ball to Medicaid, making
11 it harder to get health care and loading down the
12 program with a thicket of red tape and bureaucracy.

13 This approach is straight out of the playbook of
14 for-profit insurance companies that Americans are
15 totally and completely fed up with.

16 Taken together, the bill amounts to a trillion
17 dollars in health-care cuts, and most of it comes from
18 millions of working people and even kids losing their
19 health insurance. It'll also raise premiums for over a
20 million seniors on Medicare.

21 Now, Republicans say, of course, that they're
22 cutting waste, fraud, and abuse out of the health-care
23 system. But the way this is going forward, that's just
24 code for kicking millions of people off their health
25 insurance. And my view is that this bill is yet another

1 rationalization to get more tax breaks to the
2 ultra-wealthy and multinational corporations.

3 So I asked Mr. O'Neill to give a straightforward
4 "yes" or "no" answer on whether he supports cutting
5 Medicaid during his Finance Committee confirmation
6 hearing. What he did was repeat the same tired talking
7 points about how in effect only certain groups deserve
8 health care.

9 Here are the facts. These cuts to Medicaid are
10 going to hurt kids, seniors, Americans with
11 disabilities, and working families the hardest. Parents
12 are going to get caught in a web of red tape
13 requirements, and their children are going to pay the
14 price.

15 Kids with disabilities are going to see their home
16 care options reduced or cut all together, forcing
17 parents to make agonizing choices about whether they can
18 continue to live at home and get the care they need.

19 Nursing homes will be less safe, because
20 Republicans are rolling back the requirement that a
21 nurse is always in a nursing home 24/7. And make no
22 mistake about it, in the Senate, where so many of us
23 represent large numbers of rural communities, those
24 communities are going to be devastated.

25 Rural hospitals are going to have to make tough

1 choices between hiring another nurse or buying that
2 medical device that isn't available anywhere in the
3 county. Everyday Americans are going to pay the price
4 for Trump's bogus agenda of cutting vital programs
5 instead of taking on waste, fraud, and abuse.

6 Mr. O'Neill endorsed that agenda. On top of it,
7 he also endorsed Robert Kennedy's disastrous approach to
8 the ongoing measles outbreak, which has now topped 1,000
9 cases. Worst yet, he appeared to share Robert Kennedy's
10 appalling views about the life prospects of Americans
11 with autism.

12 I particularly want to condemn this idea of
13 creating a national registry for those with autism.
14 That is a dangerous road to travel down, and parents are
15 scared about what the Trump administration is planning.

16 Finally, I want to turn to Mr. Gary Andres, who's
17 nominated to serve as the congressional liaison at HHS.
18 Since Donald Trump was inaugurated, his administration
19 has not provided a single meaningful response to dozens
20 of inquiries. Robert Kennedy promised radical
21 transparency, but all the American people have gotten is
22 radical secrecy.

23 Mr. Andre's current position in the House Budget
24 Committee signed off on a Republican wish list of more
25 than \$2 trillion dollars in Medicaid cuts. Many of

1 those cuts have now made it into the bill that is moving
2 through the House at present.

3 These cuts are going to force rural hospitals,
4 nursing homes, and other essential services to close
5 their doors or turn away patients, leaving millions of
6 people without the health care they need. Americans
7 will die as a result of these cuts.

8 I am not going to support nominees who are going
9 to force American families to walk even more of an
10 economic tightrope without the protection of affordable
11 health care. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

12 Thank you, Senator Crapo.

13 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Wyden.

14 Seeing no other Senators here to make a statement,
15 unless there is objection, the committee will recess and
16 reconvene on the floor at 11:30 during the first vote.

17 Without objection, it is so ordered, and the
18 committee stands in recess.

19 [Whereupon, at 10:06 a.m., the meeting was
20 recessed.]

21

22 The open executive session was reconvened,
23 pursuant to notice, on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 11:30
24 a.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol,
25 Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee) presiding.

1 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

2 We now have a quorum. I move that we favorably

3 report the nomination of James O'Neill.

4 Senator Grassley. Seconded.

5 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

7 Senator Grassley. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

9 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

11 Senator Thune. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

13 Senator Scott. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

15 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

17 Senator Lankford. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

19 Senator Daines. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

21 Senator Young. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

23 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?

25 Senator Johnson. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
2 Senator Tillis. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
4 Senator Blackburn. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?
6 Senator Marshall. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?
8 Senator Wyden. Nay.
9 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
10 Senator Cantwell. Nay.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
12 Senator Bennet. Nay.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?
14 Senator Warner. Nay.
15 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?
16 Senator Whitehouse. Nay.
17 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?
18 Senator Hassan. Nay.
19 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?
20 Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.
21 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?
22 Senator Warren. Nay.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?
24 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
25 The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

1 Senator Smith. Nay.
2 The Clerk. Mr. Luján?
3 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
4 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?
5 Senator Warnock. Nay.
6 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?
7 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.
8 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?
9 The Chairman. Aye.
10 The Clerk will announce the vote.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
12 ayes and 13 nays.
13 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it.
14 We'll now move to favorably report the nomination
15 of Gary Andres.
16 Senator Grassley. Seconded.
17 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.
18 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?
19 Senator Grassley. Aye.
20 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?
21 Senator Cornyn. Aye.
22 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?
23 Senator Thune. Aye.
24 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?
25 Senator Scott. Aye.

1 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?
2 Senator Cassidy. Aye.
3 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?
4 Senator Lankford. Aye.
5 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?
6 Senator Daines. Aye.
7 The Clerk. Mr. Young?
8 Senator Young. Aye.
9 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?
10 Senator Barrasso. Aye.
11 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
12 Senator Johnson. Aye.
13 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?
14 Senator Tillis. Aye.
15 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?
16 Senator Blackburn. Aye.
17 The Clerk. Mr. Marshall?
18 Senator Marshall. Aye.
19 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden?
20 Senator Wyden. Nay.
21 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?
22 Senator Cantwell. Nay.
23 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?
24 Senator Bennet. Nay.
25 The Clerk. Mr. Warner?

1 Senator Warner. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse?

3 Senator Whitehouse. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

5 Senator Hassan. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

7 Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

8 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

9 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

11 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

13 Senator Smith. Nay.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

15 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

17 Senator Warnock. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

19 Senator Wyden. Aye by proxy.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

21 The Chairman. Aye.

22 The Clerk will announce the vote.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 19
24 ayes and 8 nays.

25 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it.

1 I thank my colleagues for their attendance. The
2 committee stands adjourned.

3 [Whereupon, at 12:13 p.m., the meeting was
4 concluded.]

1	STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
2	Hon. Mike Crapo,	2
3	a U.S. Senator from Idaho	
4		
5	Hon. Ron Wyden,	4
6	a U.S. Senator from Oregon	