



To: WSW Clients
FROM: WSW Team
DATE: January 18, 2017

On January 18, 2017, Dr. Tom Price appeared before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) for his confirmation hearing to serve as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This is a courtesy hearing as the Senate Finance Committee is the only committee to vote on Dr. Price's nomination.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY POINTS:

The majority of members discussed repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Aside from questions about some of the most popular provisions of the ACA including ensuring coverage for patients with pre-existing conditions and allowing children to stay on their parents' plan until age 26, the discussion was primarily about the general principles that would inform a replacement package. Dr. Price consistently framed his responses using his principles for reforming health care – affordability, access, quality, responsiveness to patients and innovation. Many members also expressed concern about Dr. Price's stock trades and potential conflicts of interest.

NOMINEE INFORMATION & LINK TO TESTIMONY

[Senator Lamar Alexander Opening Statement](#)

[Senator Patty Murray Opening Statement](#)

[Dr. Price's testimony](#)

MEMBER INTERESTS

- Senator Lamar Alexander – ACA replacement - timing and effect on patients and markets
- Senator Patty Murray – Dr. Price's stock trades; ACA replacement – insurance for all, coverage for pre-existing conditions, essential health benefits; birth control; access to healthcare for minorities
- Senator Enzi – difficulty keeping doctors and ensuring residents have access to medical care in rural communities; targeted actions that the Administration can take immediately to help stabilize health insurance markets; FDA policy about interchangeability with biologics/biosimilars

- Senator Sanders – potential cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; drug pricing, Medicare negotiations, guaranteed healthcare for all
- Senator Hatch – Dr. Price’s stock trades, improve pipeline for rare disease treatments, dietary supplements regulations, medical liability reform
- Senator Casey – protections in ACA – pre-existing conditions, victims of domestic violence
- Senator Paul – Dr. Price’s stock trades, ACA replacement – legalize sale of all types of insurance, health savings accounts, individual health pools, association health plans
- Senator Franken – Dr. Price’s stock trades, ACA replacement
- Senator Isakson – allowed Dr. Price to answer questions of other Senators before him
- Senator Bennet – budget impact of ACA repeal
- Senator Collins – current individual market challenges, ACA replacement, CMS reimbursement for preventative services (ex: Diabetes), biomedical research investment (ex: Alzheimer’s)
- Senator Whitehouse – cost of ACA, ACA replacement, Medicare donut hole, work requirements for able-bodied people on Medicaid (mental/behavioral health issues), effects of climate change on health
- Senator Roberts – concerns with ACA “rationing” programs - Independent Payment Advisory Board, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Prevention and Public Health Fund, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI); FDA food and nutrition policy
- Senator Baldwin – Dr. Price’s stock trades and campaign contributions, drug pricing, Medicare negotiation, drug price transparency, ACA patient protections, opioid epidemic and substance abuse treatment mandate in ACA
- Senator Young – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), state flexibility and innovation in Medicaid (Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0)
- Senator Murphy – ACA replacement – number of people covered, cost; Dr. Price’s stock trades and potential conflict of interests

- Senator Murkowski – protecting beneficiaries who have coverage due to Medicaid expansion, Medicaid block grant impacts on tribal health organizations, preserving Indian healthcare exemptions included in ACA, ensuring state flexibility, regulatory burden on rural hospitals
- Senator Warren – cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, Dr. Price’s stock trades
- Senator Hassan – substance user disorder treatment through Medicaid expansion program, essential health benefits, reproductive rights – employer discrimination based on reproductive health decisions
- Senator Cassidy – electronic health records/meaningful use, reimbursement in era of personalized medicine
- Senator Kaine – Medicaid block grant, CHIP, Medicare reform, ACA repeal, Planned Parenthood, Medicare negotiations on drug pricing, Confederate flag
- Senator Scott – community health centers in rural/medically underserved areas, telemedicine, health disparities in minority communities, rare disease

Press Coverage of Hearing

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/01/tom-price-hhs-confirmation-hearing-233755>

<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/314671-health-nominees-trades-put-stock-act-in-spotlight>

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/18/politics/tom-price-conflicts-interest-oge-ethics-office/>

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/18/us/politics/confirmation-hearing-cabinet.html?_r=0