

## **Testimony of Gary Andres**

**Nominee of President Trump to be**

**Assistant Secretary of Legislation Department of Health and  
Human Services**

*Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*

*May 6, 2025*

Thank you, Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Wyden, for inviting me to appear before the Committee today.

I want to express my gratitude to President Trump for nominating me to this vital role.

I also want to extend my appreciation to Secretary Kennedy for entrusting me with the responsibility to execute this critical mission.

Finally, I want to thank my family for their unwavering love and support. I am blessed to have some of them present today, and I'd like to introduce my wife Sue, my partner of 29 years this year, and my children. Their affection, support, and encouragement have consistently brought me happiness, comfort, and joy.

Mr. Chairman, my entire professional career has involved working in and around the U.S. Congress. I hold immense

respect for the legislative branch and eagerly anticipate executing innovative approaches to promote transparent and respectful collaboration between these two branches of government.

Congress as an institution, along with the numerous lawmakers and staff I've worked alongside, also deserves my profound gratitude. They have imparted valuable lessons, shared countless moments of joy and laughter, and offered me unique opportunities to contribute modestly to shaping this great nation's history.

Fresh from earning my Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Illinois-Chicago, I arrived in Washington as a congressional fellow on Capitol Hill. What I initially planned as a 12-month stint evolved into a multi-decade career that has allowed me to observe the legislative process from nearly every perspective.

I completed two terms in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs—one concentrating on the House of Representatives and another aiding the confirmation process for several subcabinet nominees like me. Additionally, I served as Staff Director for three congressional committees: the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and currently, the House Budget Committee.

My private sector jobs focused on government affairs, strategic communications, and public policy research. These experiences have both enriched my understanding and respect for managing inter-branch relations.

The late Bryce Harlow, who established the first White House Office of Legislative Affairs for President Eisenhower, crafted one of my favorite metaphors. He said a successful legislative affairs effort built an “ambulatory bridge across a constitutional divide,” serving a dual purpose: conveying Congress’s preferences to the White House and articulating the White House’s positions to Congress. His goal was to nurture a productive, civil, two-way dialogue. If confirmed, I aspire to emulate this model.

I’m also passionate about health care reform and eagerly anticipate working on an agenda to Make America Healthy Again. Much of Washington’s debate centers on what I term the supply side of health care— tracking the number of providers, coverage levels, and health care spending. These metrics matter and warrant attention.

Equally critical, however, is the demand side of health care. We must prioritize keeping people healthy, emphasizing preventative care and screenings, reducing chronic illness, and taking proactive steps to foster wellness. If confirmed, I would pursue these objectives with enthusiasm and vigor.

One of your former colleagues, former Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, remarked in his final Senate floor speech that he arrived at work each day striving to improve America slightly and left each night believing he might have succeeded. Those aspirational words have inspired my approach this role that I hope to pursue if confirmed.

I feel humbled and honored by this nomination, and I respectfully request your vote of support in this Committee and on the Senate floor. Thank you, and I'd be glad to answer your questions.