

**Gustav Chiarello, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Financial  
Resources**

**Opening Statement**

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify here today.

**INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY**

I would like to first introduce my wife, Jill Chiarello, who is joining me today. Jill and I have been married for 31 years, and have four children: our daughter Frances, and our sons Gus IV, Peter and Dominic; Dominic is here but Frances, Gus and Peter are all working at their respective jobs and unable to be here today.

I also want to acknowledge my parents, Linda and Gus Chiarello, who are watching from home in Florida, as well as my in-laws Donna and Paul Virostek who are doing the same, and several friends, colleagues and extended family who are all supporting me.

## **THANK YOU PRESIDENT TRUMP AND SECRETARY KENNEDY**

I am thrilled and honored and thank President Trump for nominating me to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at the Department of Health and Human Services. It is a great honor and privilege to be nominated by President Trump and to be invited to serve in his administration.

I am also grateful to Secretary Kennedy for his support and encouragement, and particularly for his vision and leadership in shaping HHS in a way to restore integrity and confidence in our government health programs and to inspire Americans to live healthy lives. Secretary Kennedy has long been a champion for the wellbeing of all Americans, and it is a great honor to be able to serve on his team to Make America Healthy Again.

## **MY BACKGROUND**

I grew up in Cooperstown, New York, moved to Washington, D.C. for college, graduate and law school, and became an Antitrust and Competition Policy Lawyer. Jill and I met here just after college; we married and settled in Alexandria, Virginia, where we raised our family. After law school I worked in private practice and later for many years at the Federal Trade Commission in antitrust enforcement and competition policy. I later worked with Chairman Jim Jordan with the House Committee on Judiciary.

## **WE NEED TO ADDRESS HEALTHCARE SPENDING**

For decades our health care costs have been rising; hospital and facility consolidation increasing; new product approvals have become more costly; and despite best efforts on legislation, the financial burdens of health care have grown to the point of crisis. The hardest hit have been rural communities and vulnerable populations in urban and suburban areas.

Throughout the last four years of the Biden Administration, the Department's budget increased by nearly 40% and its staffing increased by 17%. HHS spent \$1.7 trillion in fiscal year 2024, the highest among federal agencies in total spending. Meanwhile, cancer rates in young people are growing; mental health needs for all age groups continue to rise, diabetes rates for Americans have reached new highs, and increasingly more and more Americans are affected by chronic illness. In short, the money being spent has not resulted in overall improvements in the health quality of Americans; clearly what government had been doing did not work.

## **THIS IS A GREAT TIME FOR AMERICA**

That said, I think now is frankly one of the most exciting times for America, particularly because we are on the cusp of a revolution of the way we approach health care.

The HHS budget accounts for more than 25% of federal spending. My role, should I be confirmed, will be to “provide advice and guidance to the Secretary on all aspects of budget, financial management, grants

and acquisition management, and to provide for the direction and implementation of these activities across the Department.”

I learned at the FTC that good policy comes from asking good questions, and I look forward to capitalizing on that experience and my background to bring health care spending under control, to generate greater access to care and important medicines, to revitalizing the science behind our healthcare, and thereby spur the mission to promote a healthier America. Bringing my background as an antitrust lawyer to HHS, if confirmed I plan to lead the division by digging into the details and making recommendations so that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and producing the maximum outcomes; so that HHS can better identify the best ways to address waste, fraud and abuse, and so we can better direct those resources to improve healthcare in America.

No doubt the work we do will be arduous, but taking this proactive approach and applying my background, it will be well worth it to unlock the awesome potential for our healthy prosperity.

This is truly a great time to be an American, to be part of President Trump's efforts to reshape government, and it is a great opportunity to be part of Secretary Kennedy's MAHA agenda.

I am grateful for this honor, and I welcome your questions.