

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF BRYAN R. SWITZER, TO BE DEPUTY UNITED
3 STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (ASIA, TEXTILES, INVESTMENT,
4 SERVICES, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY), WITH THE RANK OF
5 AMBASSADOR, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT; GUSTAV
6 CHIARELLO III, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL
7 RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; AND
8 MICHAEL B. STUART, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF
9 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

10
11 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

12 U.S. Senate,
13 Committee on Finance,
14 Washington, DC.

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16 The hearing was convened, pursuant to notice, at
17 9:33 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
18 Building, Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee)
19 presiding.

20 Present: Senators Daines and Wyden.

21 Also present: Republican staff: Brian Bombassaro,
22 International Trade Counsel; Andrew Dell'Orto, Policy
23 Advisor; Molly Newell, Chief International Trade
24 Counsel; and Gregg Richard, Staff Director. Democratic
25 staff: Virginia Lenahan, Chief International Trade

1 Counsel; Joshua Sheinkman, Staff Director; and Shade
2 Streeter, Investigative Counsel.

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM IDAHO, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
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4 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.
5 We meet today to favorably consider reporting the
6 nominations of Bryan Switzer to be a Deputy United
7 States Trade Representative; Gus Chiarello to be
8 Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at the
9 Department of Health and Human Services; and Mike Stuart
10 to be General Counsel of HHS.

11 The meeting this morning will provide members with
12 the opportunity to offer remarks on the nominees, and
13 following any statements, we will recess briefly and
14 then proceed to this morning's hearing with Secretary
15 Kennedy. We will vote on these nominations off the
16 Senate floor today, and I think we've agreed to 11:30,
17 as there are other votes starting on the floor at that
18 time.

19 At his hearing, Mr. Switzer discussed his
20 commitment to trade policies and practices that place
21 the American economy and the American worker first. I
22 look forward to working with him, if confirmed, to
23 ensure that our trade policy prioritizes U.S.
24 competitiveness, spurs job creation, and promotes
25 innovation.

1 Mr. Chiarello and Mr. Stuart discussed the
2 critical issues in our health-care system, including
3 soaring costs, a burdensome drug approval process, and
4 the opioid crisis. If confirmed, both Mr. Chiarello and
5 Mr. Stuart will have the opportunity to advise Secretary
6 Kennedy on potential solutions. Given their respective
7 backgrounds, I am confident in their ability to provide
8 thoughtful counsel to the Secretary.

9 I will be voting in favor of each nomination, and
10 I encourage all of my colleagues on the committee to do
11 the same.

12 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 I will start off with Michael Stuart. The Health
6 Department's top lawyer is responsible for calling balls
7 and strikes, making sure the Department follows the law.
8 That is something that Robert Kennedy and Donald Trump
9 have shown little interest in.

10 During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Stuart
11 provided the committee no assurances that he would
12 follow laws like EMTALA. That makes sure emergency
13 departments provide lifesaving medical care. Robert
14 Kennedy -- we will hear from him later today -- is
15 speed-running our country into the worse measles
16 outbreak in decades. He's gutted vaccine panels, cancer
17 research, and is overseeing the biggest blow to Medicaid
18 and the Affordable Care Act in history.

19 Mr. Stuart has given this committee no reason to
20 believe he would be anything other than a rubber stamp
21 for Robert Kennedy.

22 Next up, Gustav Chiarello, nominated to be the
23 Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at HHS. If
24 confirmed, he will be responsible for the Department's
25 \$1.7-trillion budget. He does not have a single day's

1 worth of experience managing the finances of an
2 organization, let alone one this size.

3 This is an important role, especially in light of
4 the Trump administration's weaponizing of Federal
5 funding. Between February's disaster funding freeze and
6 Trump's latest rescission of funds that Congress already
7 appropriated, the administration is making a mockery of
8 congressional authority.

9 If confirmed, Mr. Chiarello would oversee
10 unprecedented funding and staff cuts and budget
11 shortfalls. He has shown no intention of pushing back
12 against Donald Trump taking a blow torch to the programs
13 and resources that millions of Americans rely on to stay
14 healthy and safe.

15 Finally, Bryan Switzer, who is nominated to be
16 Deputy U.S. Trade Representative with jurisdiction over
17 Asia and a number of important areas: textiles,
18 investment, services, intellectual property. And from
19 Day 1, the reason this is an important appointment is
20 that Donald Trump's trade agenda has been disastrous.

21 His tariffs and trade flip-flopping have left
22 American farmers, businesses, and workers on an economic
23 roller coaster. Prices are up. Small businesses and
24 farmers struggle. For the sixth straight month in a
25 row, U.S. manufacturing has declined.

1 That is the message that I have heard all over my
2 State, as I had town hall meetings in some of the most
3 rural parts of Oregon, and talked with business owners,
4 farmers, and ranchers. Mr. Switzer is going to provide
5 neither transparency nor consistency, and I urge my
6 colleagues to oppose him and to vote "no" on each of
7 these nominees.

8 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Wyden.

9 Unless Senator Daines wishes to make a statement,
10 then we will now proceed, unless there is an objection,
11 to go into recess briefly and proceed to this morning's
12 hearing with Secretary Kennedy at 10 a.m.

13 We will vote, as I said earlier, on these
14 nominations off the Senate floor today at 11:30 a.m.
15 Without objection, it is so ordered, and the committee
16 will stand in recess.

17 [Whereupon, at 9:38 a.m., the executive session
18 was recessed.]

19

20 The open executive session was reconvened,
21 pursuant to notice, on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 11:30
22 a.m., in Room S-216, The President's Room, U.S. Capitol,
23 Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee) presiding.

24 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.

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

1 report the nomination of Bryan Switzer.

2 Senator Grassley. Seconded.

3 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

5 Senator Grassley. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

7 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

9 Senator Thune. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

11 Senator Scott. Aye.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

13 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

15 Senator Lankford. Aye.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

17 Senator Daines. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

19 Senator Young. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

21 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?

23 Senator Johnson. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?

25 Senator Tillis. Aye.

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

1 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

3 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

5 Senator Welch. Nay.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

7 The Chairman. Aye.

8 The Clerk will announce the vote.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 15
10 ayes and 12 nays.

11 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. And the
12 nomination is favorably reported.

13 We'll now move to favorably report the nomination
14 of Gustav Chiarello III.

15 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

17 Senator Grassley. Aye.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

19 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

21 Senator Thune. Aye.

22 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

23 Senator Scott. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

25 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

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

1 Senator Whitehouse. Nay.

2 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan?

3 Senator Hassan. Nay.

4 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto?

5 Senator Cortez Masto. Nay.

6 The Clerk. Ms. Warren?

7 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders?

9 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

10 The Clerk. Ms. Smith?

11 Senator Smith. Nay.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Luján?

13 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

14 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

15 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

17 Senator Welch. Nay.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

19 The Chairman. Aye.

20 The Clerk will announce the vote.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
22 ayes and 13 nays.

23 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. And the
24 nomination is favorably reported.

25 We'll now move to favorably report the nomination

1 of Michael Stuart.

2 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

4 Senator Grassley. Aye.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?

6 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?

8 Senator Thune. Aye.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?

10 Senator Scott. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?

12 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?

14 Senator Lankford. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?

16 Senator Daines. Aye.

17 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

18 Senator Young. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

20 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?

22 Senator Johnson. Aye.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?

24 Senator Tillis. Aye.

25 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?

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

1 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock?

2 Senator Wyden. Nay by proxy.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Welch?

4 Senator Welch. Nay.

5 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

6 The Chairman. Aye.

7 The Clerk will announce the vote.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14
9 ayes and 13 nays.

10 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it. And the
11 nomination is favorably reported.

12 I thank my colleagues for their attendance. The
13 committee stands adjourned.

14 [Whereupon, at 12:02 p.m., the meeting was
15 concluded.]

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