

**Opening Statement  
John J. Bartrum**

**Nominee for Assistant Secretary, Financial Resources, U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services**

**Senate Committee on Finance**

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Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, and members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to testify today. I would also like to thank President Trump for his confidence in nominating me for this position. It is an honor to stand before you as the nominee to be the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

I would first like to take a minute to introduce and thank my family: my wife Elizabeth and daughters Olivia and Sophia. I would not be able to serve without their support. I must say hello to my mother Kitty in Kentucky and our family back home in Indiana and in New York who are likely first time C-SPAN viewers.

I grew up in a small town in Indiana. My father worked in a factory and died while I was in grade school, and I faced many challenges in my youth, including being left to live on my own during my last years of high school. As a child, I never dreamed an opportunity like this would be possible for me.

Following a family tradition in military service, I enlisted in the Air Force. This allowed me to serve my country while I earned money for college and changed the direction of my life. I suspect my enlisted basic training drill sergeant wondered if the 18 year-old kid from Indiana would graduate basic enlisted training, let alone serve for more than 30 years, including as a senior military officer. My military service opened up so many of the opportunities our great country offers.

Despite my early life challenges, I went on to earn an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from McKendree College, holding degrees in Bio-Environmental Engineering and Survival and Rescue Operations as well as a Master in Business Administration from Southern Illinois University and a Juris Doctorate in Law from George Mason University School of Law.

My path demonstrates how the American dream is still alive as our country opens doors beyond what a young child's imagination may foresee.

I began my federal career as an enlisted member of the Air Force (USAF), and later continued working for the Department of the Air Force in a variety of positions in and outside of the United States as a civilian employee and joining the USAF Reserve Forces. I have been mobilized in support of Operations Desert Shield and Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

I am a combat veteran who currently serves as a Colonel in the Medical Service Corps (Hospital Administrator/Executive) assigned to a Brigadier General position as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA). My military assignments included serving as Medical Commander, Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) Deputy Assistant to the USAF Surgeon General (SG) for Health Care Operations and Medical Research, and IMA Liaison to USAF/SG for Medical Reserve Forces to list a few.

Until February of 2017, I was a civil servant for more than more than 32 years. In my last position, I served seven years as a professional staffer on the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, working on HHS appropriations issues with a specific focus on biomedical research, public health, and health care. Prior to this position, I was the Budget Director for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) advising the NIH Director on appropriations and budget policy issues and was also responsible for the NIH-wide budget policy, planning, analysis, formulation and presentation.

I joined NIH from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a senior OMB examiner in the National Security Division, working on management, policy, and budget development issues for the Department of Defense (DoD) health, medical, and research activities. In addition, I worked to improve the coordination between DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). My position at OMB followed three years working at the VA on medical budget, health care policy, and other veterans' issues.

All these years later, it is still an honor to serve as an active Air Force reserve officer and to have served our government as a civil servant for more than three decades. With your support, I look forward to re-entering government with another opportunity to serve the American people.

The Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at the Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for development of the HHS annual budget, for financial management, and for grants policy and information technology policy. The position has an important role with the coordination of these activities across HHS's divisions. I look forward to serving in a key role that works to make the best use of available resources to enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my education and experience demonstrate a strong understanding of the federal budget process, the HHS budget, and the HHS public health, health, and medical research programs and uniquely qualifies me for this position.

If I receive the confidence of the Senate to serve as Assistant Secretary, my desire is to ensure my office and I work to serve as a resource to Congress to best serve our nation. I look forward to serving our nation as the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources at HHS.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.