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February 9, 2023

Wyden Statement at Finance Committee Executive Session to Organize for the 118th Congress *As Prepared for Delivery*

Good morning everybody. It's a pleasure to bring together the first meeting of the Finance Committee in the 118th Congress.

I want to start out by welcoming our three new committee members.

Senator Burr may have left at the end of last year, but North Carolinians can rest assured that Senator Tillis is going to make sure they've still got a voice here in the Finance Committee.

Senator Blackburn is the first member from Tennessee since the 109th Congress when former Senator Bill Frist retired.

It's been a little longer since Wisconsin was represented on the committee — that goes back to the end of the 96th Congress in 1980. But with Senator Johnson joining us, the Badger State is represented here once again.

Welcome to all three of you.

From the day I was elected to the Senate I wanted to join the Finance Committee. That's because, in my view, this is the number one venue in Congress for tackling the big health and economic challenges that matter most to people back in our home states.

This committee has a history of coming together to pass important, bipartisan legislation, even during sharply divided Congresses.

Just in the last handful of years, we've come together to pass bills cutting taxes for middle class families and small businesses, helping more people save for a dignified retirement, updating the Medicare guarantee and making it easier for Americans to get mental health care when they need it.

In my view, there's a big opportunity for progress on more key issues in the coming months — issues like reducing the cost of housing and health care, taking on prescription drug middlemen, and making even more progress on mental health.

I'm looking forward to working with the entire committee on these issues and more.

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