

**Crapo Statement at Executive Session to Vote on Treasury and HHS Nominees**  
*July 28, 2022*

Washington, D.C.--U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, delivered the following remarks at an executive session to vote on the nominations of Jay Shambaugh, to be Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs, and Rebecca Haffajee, for HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

*The text of Ranking Member Crapo's remarks is below.*

"Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's markup on the nomination of Jay Shambaugh for Under Secretary for International Affairs at the U.S. Treasury, and Rebecca Haffajee for HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

"At both the Departments of Treasury and HHS, the Biden Administration has repeatedly failed to consult substantively with Congress on key policymaking decisions. Let me begin by noting that both Dr. Haffajee and Dr. Shambaugh are accomplished in their respective fields.

"However, I am disappointed by their responses to the questions my colleagues and I asked them in the hearing and subsequently in questions for the record. In response to my colleagues' questions regarding abortion, public health emergencies, and religious liberty, Dr. Haffajee was evasive. For many of these questions, she only stated that she would 'follow the law.' That should always be the case, if she were to be confirmed.

"However, her unwillingness to provide any indication regarding her thoughts on the issues at hand does not reflect a good-faith effort at dialogue and partnership with Congress, and gives me concern that she would support efforts by HHS Secretary Becerra to circumvent state laws and individuals' constitutional rights.

"Turning to Dr. Shambaugh, he declined to acknowledge fully in the hearing and in responses to questions for the record that the American Rescue Plan, and the proposed reckless tax and spending programs urged by the Biden administration, have exacerbated inflation and now threaten to plunge the economy into recession.

"Fortunately, Dr. Shambaugh did acknowledge in his response to my questions for the record that, and I quote, 'Inflation remains unacceptably high...and I agree with the President that inflation should be the Administration's top economic priority....'

"While the Fed has the primary role of fighting inflation, I believe that the Biden Administration must do its part to end inflation including by stopping reckless and partisan spending—including through reconciliation—relieving businesses of burdensome regulation, ending its war on American energy, and desisting from its plans to crush American workers and families with new, onerous taxes.

“Raising taxes, especially in the face of recession and stagflation, leads to higher costs and inevitably lower wages and higher prices. Workers are hurt, and prices rise in the midst of the highest inflation in more than 40 years.

“If confirmed, Dr. Shambaugh and the rest of the Biden Administration should heed this advice.”