



For Immediate Release
October 15, 2009

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**Hearing Statement of Senator Max Baucus (D-Mont.)
Regarding Health and Human Services Nominations**

The English novelist George Eliot said:

“The reward of one duty is the power to fulfill another.”

To each of our witnesses today: You have ably performed duties in public service. Your reward is that President Obama has called on you to fulfill another duty for your country.

I counsel you to fulfill your new duty honestly and ably. For you should wish to do no less.

Mr. Esquea, President Obama nominated you to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the Department of Health and Human Services. This is not the first time that you have been called upon to serve your country. And you have always fulfilled your duty well.

You have devoted your career to health care policy. Previously, you served as a health analyst at the Office of Management and Budget. Currently, you analyze Children’s Health and Medicaid issues for the Senate Budget Committee, assessing the fiscal responsibility of vital health policies considered by this Congress.

In that capacity, you have been known to occupy one of the staff seats on this side of the dais, behind Senator Conrad. Welcome to the other side of the dais.

Your success in carrying out your duties has brought you new duties. As Assistant Secretary for Legislation, you will be responsible for developing the Department’s legislative agenda. You will also serve as the primary link between Congress and the HHS. This task — always important — will be crucial as we work to enact and implement health care reform.

Ms. Murray, President Obama nominated you to be Assistant Secretary of Resources and Technology at HHS. You, too, have been called upon to serve your country before. And you, too, fulfilled your duty well.

For ten years, you have served as Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services. In this position, you have played a key role in funding HHS. Those duties have given you important insight into the costs associated with the policies and programs carried out there.

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You previously served in the budget office and the Office of the General Counsel at HHS. Those duties provided you with first-hand experience assessing and carrying out the Department's activities.

Your success in fulfilling those duties has brought you new duties. As the Assistant Secretary of Resources and Technology, you will provide the Secretary of HHS with essential guidance on the budget, financial management, and information technology resources of the Department.

And as HHS begins to implement health care reform, you will play a vital role ensuring that new programs and policies passed by this Congress have the resources they need to start working immediately for the American people.

Dr. Samuels, President Obama nominated you to be Commissioner of Children, Youth, and Families at HHS. This is not the first time that you have been called upon to serve your country. And you have fulfilled your duty well.

You are currently Chief of Staff for the Chicago Public School System. There, you help to oversee the third-largest public school system in the country. In this role, you assessed the needs of hundreds of thousands of school children, and evaluate educational and other policies directly affecting their lives.

Before that, you served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. That's the nation's third largest child welfare agency. In that capacity, you worked to implement comprehensive assessments of all children entering care. And you also redesigned transitional and independent living programs, to help prepare youth for transitioning to adulthood.

Your success in carrying out these duties has brought you new duties. As the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, you will administer Federal social services programs that promote the growth and development of children and youth, as well as their families.

Your experience must guide you as you fulfill this role, for America's future depends on our children and our youth. And it is essential that we ensure their welfare, so that each child has the opportunity to forge a successful life.

Each of you has experience that will serve you well in the positions for which you have been nominated. I am sure that you will more than fulfill your duties. It is imperative that you do no less.

Congratulations, and I look forward to hearing your testimony.

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