

**United States Senate Committee on Finance**  
**January 29, 2025**  
**Hearing to Consider the Nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be**  
**Secretary of the Health and Human Services**

Follow-up Question for the Record submitted to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. from Senator Wyden.

**Medicare drug price negotiation questions (Questions 315-320, 322-323, 324-325, 326-331, 338-345)**

**Response: The issue of drug pricing is an issue of great concern to many Americans. If confirmed, I plan to follow the law in implementing CMS programs, and I look forward to working to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans.**

**Follow-up Question 1:** Mr. Kennedy, you have spent the better part of your career criticizing the corrupting influence of the pharmaceutical industry over the government. During one of your confirmation hearings, you even went so far as to insinuate that a Democratic Senator, who is a well-established champion for lower drug prices, is in Big Pharma’s pocket. You have also repeatedly expressed concerns about drug prices being too high for Americans, and you claim that President Trump agrees with this sentiment.

Medicare drug price negotiation is the number one policy on Big Pharma’s hit list, and it passed without a single Republican vote. Yet, you did not provide a straight answer in your initial QFR responses about whether you would oppose policy changes to Medicare drug price negotiation that would raise drug costs for seniors and people with disabilities. I am giving you another chance to clarify your position. Given your history, these should be very simple “yes or no” questions for you. Please answer each of the following questions with a yes or no answer:

- Will you block administrative changes to the Medicare drug price negotiation program that would raise drug costs for seniors?
- Will you block administrative changes to the Medicare drug price negotiation program that would delay access to lower negotiated drug prices for seniors?
- Will you reject Big Pharma’s request to unlawfully “pause” Medicare drug price negotiations?

**Response: Lowering the cost of prescription drugs for Americans is a top priority of President Trump and his Administration. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services previously announced the selection of 15 additional drugs covered under Medicare Part D for price negotiations and committed to incorporating lessons learned and considering opportunities to bring greater transparency to the Negotiation Program. If confirmed, I plan to follow the law and I look forward to working to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans.**

**Pharma CEOs Mar-a-Lago Dinner (Questions 314 and 334)**

**Follow-Up Question 2:** In your response to Question 314, you claim that Medicare drug price negotiation was not discussed at your December 4, 2024 dinner at Mar-a-Lago with pharmaceutical industry CEOs. But in Question 334, you claim not to recall anything discussed at the dinner. These answers are inconsistent. Which response is true?

**Response: I do not recall if the topic was discussed.**

**Follow-up Question on Aaron Siri 3:** Aaron Siri, one of your key advisors, petitioned the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to pause or revoke approval of over a dozen vaccines intended to prevent polio, hepatitis B, and other diseases.

1. Do you support these actions taken by Mr. Siri?

**Response: I am not involved with the litigation and therefore have no basis for an opinion.**

2. Did Mr. Siri receive any compensation or other support from Children’s Health Defense or any other entity you are affiliated with related to these efforts?

**Response: This is a question for Mr. Siri, as I am not involved with the litigation.**

### **Project 2025 Question on Future of Traditional Medicare (Question 119)**

**Question 119:** Project 2025 called for expanding MA to take over all Medicare, effectively eliminating Traditional Medicare. Dr. Mehmet Oz, President-Elect Trump’s nominee to run the CMS, also has called for the elimination of Traditional Medicare. Do you agree with this policy proposal?

**Response: Transparency into each of the players that make up the prescription supply chain is needed to help bring down the cost of prescription drugs for Americans. I commit to working with Congress on lowering the cost of prescription drugs and increasing transparency into the prescription drug industry.**

**Follow-up Question 4:** This answer is not responsive to the question. Please provide a yes or no answer to the question.

**Response: Medicare beneficiaries deserve to choose how they receive their Medicare benefits, whether that is through traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage, and I will work to improve both programs in ways that improve health outcomes and quality for beneficiaries. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on ways to make sure that seniors have access to the best healthcare.**

### **Questions on Home Care Worker Wages (Questions 53 and 180)**

**Question 53.** Yes or no, do you believe direct care workers are paid a fair wage?

**Response: Federal wage laws are set by Congress and enforced by the Department of Labor.**

**Question 180.** Are current wages for home care workers adequate?

**Response: I believe this question is better addressed to the Department of Labor.**

**Follow-up Question 5:** Your responses seem to indicate the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has no authority that affects the wages of home care workers. Do you believe HHS has any ability to influence policy to ensure home care workers are paid a fair wage?

**Response: Recruiting and maintaining a high caliber direct care workforce is important to ensuring good quality care. While the Department of Labor is responsible for enforcement of federal wage laws, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) has a number of initiatives to improve the direct care workforce. There are also options for states to employ for home care workers through Medicaid reimbursement rates. If confirmed as HHS Secretary, I would work with states to ensure flexibility to pursue innovative approaches that fit the needs of their citizens, ensure quality, and improve health outcomes.**

**Questions on Settlement Agreements (Questions 271 and 272)**

**Follow-up Question 6:** Please describe the nature of the financial settlements (including total amounts) and non-disclosure agreements reached and what these agreements involved. Please also indicate how many of these settlements and non-disclosure agreements you have signed.

**Response: Twice, I have been targeted by frivolous, unfounded allegations, which I strenuously denied at the time and continue to deny. I entered into confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements to prohibit these individuals from continuing to make these allegations.**

**Medicaid Questions**

**Question 228.** Will you commit to supporting the continued use of SNAP eligibility data to enroll people in the Medicaid program?

**Question 230.** Do you support allowing flexibility in the Medicaid program to cover social needs that contribute to poor health outcomes, such as housing support services, nutrition services, and home environment improvements (air ventilation, refrigeration, accessibility modifications)?

**Response 227-229: While funding levels and mechanisms are set by Congress, if confirmed, I would work to ensure that the Medicaid program is well administered, effective, and available for the most vulnerable beneficiaries and that the states are given the flexibility to pursue innovative approaches that fit the needs of their states while ensuring access to care.**

**Follow-up Question 7:** Many of your answers to the questions regarding the Medicaid program suggest that you do not understand HHS' role in developing policy and guidance outside of the Congressional process. In addition, you did not provide a response to Question 230. Do you support flexibility in the Medicaid program to cover social needs that contribute to poor health outcomes?

The federal government already has the authority to approve a proposal from a state on this issue. How would you respond if a state proposed to cover these benefits?

**Response: If confirmed, I would work to see that the Department is a helpful resource to the states by providing transparent and clear communication regarding their flexibility, technical assistance and support as needed. Every state is unique in their specific approach to the provision of services, and we stand ready to assist states as they develop appropriate strategies to improve the health outcomes of their citizens.**

**Question for the Record submitted to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. from Senator Whitehouse**

- In the hearing, I outlined the CMS hospital reimbursement disparity that persistently pays Rhode Island providers less than their peers in neighboring states. How will you fix this inequity?

**Response: I understand hospital payment can be affected by the statutory hospital wage index, which can impact the payment rates between neighboring communities and states. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on this issue and ensuring that all Americans have access to high quality care.**

- I also outlined the administrative attack from CMS on Integra, a Rhode Island accountable care organization within the Medicare Share Savings Program. How would you make this program work better for ACOs?

**Response: Moving toward a health care system that pays for value rather than volume is an important goal. President Trump has tasked me with improving the quality of care and lowering costs for all Americans. If confirmed, I will work with Congress and the CMS Administrator to ensure that we learn from the results of the Shared Savings Program and work to continue to improve it so that it works for patients and providers.**

**Question for the Record submitted to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. from Senator Warnock.**

1. If confirmed, will you commit to honoring the independence of the CDC and its public health experts, and protecting the agency from any political influence from you or the White House? How?

**Response: As I testified in the hearing and have responded to in previous questions for the record, yes, if confirmed, I will commit to working with scientists, all agencies, including the CDC, and public health experts. I will ensure the scientific integrity of all agencies are upheld and commit to radical transparency.**