

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING
2 THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., TO BE
3 SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4

5 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025

6 U.S. Senate,

7 Committee on Finance,

8 Washington, DC.

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10 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at
11 10:11 a.m., in Room SD-215, Dirksen Senate Office
12 Building, Hon. Mike Crapo (chairman of the committee)
13 presiding.

14 Present: Senators Grassley, Cornyn, Thune, Scott,
15 Cassidy, Lankford, Daines, Young, Barrasso, Johnson,
16 Tillis, Blackburn, Marshall, Wyden, Cantwell, Bennet,
17 Warner, Whitehouse, Hassan, Cortez Masto, Warren,
18 Sanders, Smith, Luján, Warnock, and Welch.

19 Also present: Republican staff: Gable Brady,
20 Senior Health Policy Advisor; Andrew Dell'Orto, Policy
21 Advisor; Kellie McConnell, Health Policy Director; and
22 Gregg Richard, Staff Director. Democratic staff: Daniel
23 Goshorn, Chief Investigative Counsel; Stacy Sanders,
24 Chief Health Policy Advisor; Joshua Sheinkman, Staff
25 Director; Tiffany Smith, Deputy Staff Director and Chief

1 Counsel; Shade Streeter, Investigative Counsel; and
2 Ryder Tobin, Senior Investigative Counsel and
3 Nominations Advisor.

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1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE CRAPO, A U.S. SENATOR
2 FROM IDAHO, CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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4 The Chairman. The committee will come to order.
5 We are meeting today to consider the nomination of
6 Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to be Secretary of the U. S.
7 Department of Health and Human Services. We are still
8 waiting to get all of our members here. And while we
9 wait for that to occur, we will proceed with statements.
10 And I will proceed first, then Senator Wyden, and then
11 we will rotate from one side to the other until we are
12 at a point where we're prepared for the vote. Does that
13 fit with you, Senator Wyden?

14 Senator Wyden. Yes, sir.

15 The Chairman. Mr. Kennedy has also clearly
16 responded to our questions during the rigorous due
17 diligence process in his hearing also and in the course
18 of answering over 900 questions, for the record, that
19 were asked by members of this committee.

20 In response to members of the committee, Mr.
21 Kennedy has even amended his Ethics Agreement, going
22 beyond what is required by the government Office of
23 Ethics.

24 Mr. Kennedy has proven his commitment to the role
25 of Secretary of the HHS, and I will vote in favor of his

1 nomination. I strongly encourage my colleagues on both
2 sides of the aisle to do the same. And with that, I
3 recognize our ranking member, Senator Wyden, for his
4 remarks.

1 OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RON WYDEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM
2 OREGON

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4 Senator Wyden. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
5 I'll have a brief statement, and then several of my
6 colleagues on our side are also going to make brief
7 statements.

8 This morning we're going to vote on Robert
9 Kennedy's nomination to serve as our Nations' chief
10 healthcare officer. Before we get to Mr. Kennedy and
11 why I believe he is singularly unfit to serve as HHS
12 Secretary, I'd like to say this. The last several days
13 we've witnessed an authoritarian takeover of our Federal
14 Government by Elon Musk and Donald Trump. They have set
15 their sights on a full purge of anyone in government
16 that doesn't bend the knee and follow their orders.

17 They've taken over the Treasury Department's
18 payment systems, and, colleagues, that has a direct
19 effect on major programs within our committee's
20 jurisdiction that include Social Security, Medicare, and
21 Medicaid.

22 For example, this committee voted for a major
23 reform of pharmacy benefit manager legislation. We
24 passed it 26 to nothing, but Trump and Musk killed it.
25 Think what they could do with abuse of the payment

1 system. Now in my view, much of this is of dubious
2 legality and constitutional authority, and certainly
3 flies in the face of congressional responsibility.

4 I'll wrap up on this point by saying I hope our
5 colleagues on the other side of the aisle will not sit
6 by while Musk and Trump make a mockery of the power
7 Republicans hold in their congressional majority. Now
8 more than ever, the American people need leaders that
9 will stand up to these abuses.

10 That brings me to Mr. Kennedy. A recent analysis
11 showed that Mr. Kennedy has made 114 separate
12 appearances in just the last 4 years where he has
13 espoused anti-vaccine views or spread information about
14 the efficacy of vaccines -- misinformation specifically.
15 In 36 of those instances, Mr. Kennedy directly linked
16 vaccines to autism.

17 Last week, Mr. Kennedy was given ample authority
18 on a bipartisan basis to recant his decades-long career
19 peddling anti-vaccine conspiracies. Instead, he spent
20 his time with us dodging and weaving and gave no
21 indication that, if confirmed as HHS Secretary, he would
22 stand by the long-settled science surrounding routine
23 vaccinations.

24 Just take the Samoa measles outbreak as an
25 example. Mr. Kennedy told me, and I quote, "We don't

1 know what was killing them," speaking about the 83
2 measles deaths during an outbreak of the disease in
3 2019. Just yesterday, colleagues, the Director General
4 of Health from Samoa called this claim a total
5 fabrication. Peddling these conspiracy theories as the
6 Nation's chief health officer is going to be deadly for
7 kids across the country.

8 On abortion, Mr. Kennedy's answers, once again,
9 raised still more questions. He refused to tell us
10 whether he would blindly follow a directive from Donald
11 Trump to break the law and end access to Mifepristone,
12 and he seemed to have no understanding of his role in
13 enforcing existing Federal laws that guarantee women the
14 right to lifesaving abortion care.

15 Mr. Kennedy also failed on several occasions to
16 show a basic understanding of the Medicare and Medicaid
17 programs he would be tasked with overseeing.
18 Colleagues, that alone should be disqualifying. Mr.
19 Kennedy has given us no reason to believe he'll be
20 anything other than a rubber stamp for plans to gut
21 Medicaid and rip health care away from the American
22 people and be a "yes" man if ordered by Musk or Trump to
23 take an illegal action.

24 I close with this, colleagues: today we're going
25 to make a judgment about the future of science in this

1 country. We're going to make decisions that are going
2 to impact the health and well-being of Americans for
3 years to come. I agree, and I say this to my colleagues
4 on both sides of the aisle, that the health-care status
5 quo needs substantial changes so we get better, more
6 affordable care to patients.

7 And that leaves, given my statement, the question
8 in front of us now that's pretty simple. Do Senators
9 want their legacy to include disregarding basic health
10 science and instead elevating conspiracy theorists?

11 Making Robert Kennedy Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services, in my view, colleagues, would be a grave
13 threat to the health of the American people, and I urge
14 my colleagues this morning to vote "no."

15 The Chairman. So, Senator Wyden, we have all of
16 our members here. Senator Wyden and I have agreed that
17 we will have two or three on each side who wanted to
18 make statements do so before the vote. So please,
19 everyone hold with us while we have those statements
20 made and then we will proceed to the vote.

21 I know we've got a lot of folks here pushing on
22 some -- do you want to vote now?

23 Senator Wyden. Mr. Chairman, I've got several
24 colleagues who were under the impression after we talked
25 that we would have two or three -- and I'm happy for

1 both sides to make brief remarks, and I'd still like to
2 stay with that.

3 The Chairman. I did make that commitment, and so
4 I would say to my colleagues on my side I would
5 appreciate it if you would hold your remarks until after
6 the vote. We will let a couple on your side have their
7 remarks, and then we will proceed to the vote.

8 Senator Wyden. Great. Thank you.

9 The Chairman. And who would be next?

10 Senator Wyden. Senator Cantwell.

11 The Chairman. Senator Cantwell?

12 Senator Cantwell. Mr. Chairman, thank you. When
13 you said two or three people, I didn't know who you had
14 in mind, but being next in seniority, I appreciate the
15 opportunity.

16 Today is very concerning to me because of the
17 future of what I think our Nation faces. When I think
18 of this issue, I think of my specific Northwest
19 leadership: how Paul Allen, on his own, invested \$100
20 million to fight Ebola. I think of Bill Gates and the
21 Gates Foundation not just trying to eradicate polio and
22 work on these issues, but to think of a regime that
23 helps not just our Nation's health, but global health.

24 So with the UOW, the University of Washington, the
25 Cancer Research Center, all of these entities are a

1 collaboration of saying we have to go faster in solving
2 these threats to our Nation as it relates to health.
3 Now, we can have a big discussion -- and I think you
4 guys all want to have a big discussion -- about whether
5 and when what happened in the Wuhan Province, but I can
6 tell you we were the first city, we had the first
7 patient, we had the first people who died in nursing
8 homes, we had an emergency room at a hospital that
9 basically was just begging for any equipment we could
10 get them.

11 The whole community stood up and moved as fast as
12 we possibly could and broke down barriers to save lives,
13 and that is what we have to continue to do on
14 innovation. We cannot let another country get ahead of
15 us on some sort of warfare issue and not have a response
16 when it comes to a vaccine.

17 So, the most challenging -- I wanted to vote for
18 Mr. Kennedy in the context of my family's history. My
19 dad stood behind his father the night his father gave
20 the famous speech. I told him in my office, in my
21 family the Kennedys stood up, but when he answered
22 Senator Cassidy's question and he couldn't even give him
23 the answer that, "Yes, the data is there to support
24 vaccines today, I don't need any more data," all of a
25 sudden, I saw this world that we got affected by in

1 Seattle not being stood up for.

2 I need someone at HHS who is going to say we're
3 going to be a leader in medical technology, science,
4 vaccines. We are going to fight foreign powers. We are
5 going to be there to provide global health, and I don't
6 want a recalcitrant. I need a leader, and that is why
7 I'm voting "no."

8 The Chairman. Senator Wyden and I have agreed
9 that Senator Warnock will now speak. Following Senator
10 Warnock, we will proceed to the vote and then anyone
11 else who wants to make remarks will be allowed to make
12 remarks.

13 Senator Warnock?

14 Senator Warnock. Thank you so very much, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16 At a rally a few months ago, Donald Trump said
17 that he was going to allow Mr. Robert Kennedy to "go
18 wild on health." Go wild. Of all the things that I can
19 think of that I'd like to Secretary of Health and Human
20 Services do, go wild is not on the list.

21 Mr. Robert Kennedy is manifestly unqualified for
22 the job he seeks. And in both my live and written
23 questions for the record, he failed to commit to
24 protecting access to affordable health care, failed to
25 commit to protecting the people who are protecting us.

1 The problem that the CDC has is that every day these
2 noble civil servants and workers protect us from dangers
3 that we don't see, and often you don't get credit for
4 protecting people from things that they don't see.

5 I simply do not trust him to oversee the CDC.
6 He's unqualified, and I dare say everybody here knows
7 it. We need a serious person at the helm of the HHS, an
8 agency responsible for the health of about half of all
9 Americans. Mr. Kennedy appears more obsessed in chasing
10 conspiracy theories than chasing solutions to lower
11 health-care costs for working families in Georgia and to
12 make sure that we are protected.

13 The last thing we need is a dilatant dabbling in
14 conspiracy theories at HHS. I cannot vote for a nominee
15 who is not going to lower health-care costs for
16 Georgians, who's going to undermine basic science in
17 public health, who puts his own interest above the
18 health and the well-being of others, the health and
19 well-being of all families, the people who count on us
20 to think about them in these rooms of power.

21 I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the
22 aisle to look past politics and think of the country and
23 to find the moral courage to do what's right: oppose
24 this nomination.

25 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Warnock.

1 We now have not only a quorum, but all members of
2 the committee are present. I move that the committee
3 favorably report the nomination of the Honorable Robert
4 F. Kennedy, Jr. of California to be Secretary of Health
5 and Human Services. Is there a second?

6 Senator Grassley. Second.

7 The Chairman. There is a second. The Clerk will
8 call the role.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley?

10 Senator Grassley. Aye.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Grassley, aye. Mr. Cornyn?

12 Senator Cornyn. Aye.

13 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn, aye. Mr. Thune?

14 Senator Thune. Aye.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Thune, aye. Mr. Scott?

16 Senator Scott. Aye.

17 The Clerk. Mr. Scott, aye. Mr. Cassidy?

18 Senator Cassidy. Aye.

19 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy, aye. Mr. Lankford?

20 Senator Lankford. Aye.

21 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford, aye. Mr. Daines?

22 Senator Daines. Aye.

23 The Clerk. Mr. Daines, aye. Mr. Young?

24 Senator Young. Aye.

25 The Clerk. Mr. Young, aye. Mr. Barrasso?

1 Senator Barrasso. Aye.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso, aye. Mr. Johnson?

3 Senator Johnson. Aye.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson, aye. Mr. Tillis?

5 Senator Tillis. Aye.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis, aye. Mrs. Blackburn?

7 Senator Blackburn. Aye.

8 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn, aye. Mr. Marshall?

9 Senator Marshall. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mr. Marshall, aye. Mr. Wyden?

11 Senator Wyden. No.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Wyden, no. Ms. Cantwell?

13 Senator Cantwell. No.

14 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell, no. Mr. Bennet?

15 Senator Bennet. No.

16 The Clerk. Mr. Bennet, no. Mr. Warner?

17 Senator Warner. No.

18 The Clerk. Mr. Warner, no. Mr. Whitehouse?

19 Senator Whitehouse. No.

20 The Clerk. Mr. Whitehouse, no. Ms. Hassan?

21 Senator Hassan. No.

22 The Clerk. Ms. Hassan, no. Ms. Cortez Masto?

23 Senator Cortez Masto. No.

24 The Clerk. Ms. Cortez Masto, no. Ms. Warren?

25 Senator Warren. No.

1 The Clerk. Ms. Warren, no. Mr. Sanders?

2 Senator Sanders. No.

3 The Clerk. Mr. Sanders, no. Ms. Smith?

4 Senator Smith. No.

5 The Clerk. Ms. Smith, no. Mr. Luján?

6 Senator Luján. No.

7 The Clerk. Mr. Luján, no. Mr. Warnock?

8 Senator Warnock. No.

9 The Clerk. Mr. Warnock, no. Mr. Welch?

10 Senator Welch. No.

11 The Clerk. Mr. Welch, no. Mr. Chairman?

12 The Chairman. Aye.

13 The Clerk. The chairman votes aye.

14 Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14 ayes, 13 nays.

15 The Chairman. Would the Clerk please restate the
16 vote?

17 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally was 14
18 ayes, 13 nays.

19 The Chairman. The vote was 14, 13. The
20 nomination is reported favorably.

21 We will now turn to other Senators who would like
22 to make a statement. Since I asked my Republican
23 colleagues to hold off at the outset, I'll go to the
24 Republican side next. First, Senator Tillis.

25 Senator Tillis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I voted

1 "aye" today, and I want to just briefly explain why. I
2 believe in my 65 years -- I'll be 65 in August -- that
3 Mr. Kennedy will be one of the first people coming
4 before us who is, in fact, not a trained health-care
5 expert. He views this through the lens of an attorney.
6 He's brought many lawsuits on food safety, vaccine
7 safety, a number of other things, but Mr. Chair, I think
8 it was Senator Warnock that said that the President said
9 that he was going to go wild in the Department of Health
10 and Human Services. I hope he does. I hope he goes wild
11 and actually finds a way to reduce the cost of health
12 care.

13 I hope he goes wild, and instead of having the
14 discussions that we have had for the 10 years that I've
15 been in the Senate of making Medicaid work and making
16 people on Medicaid healthier, I hope he goes wild and
17 figures out how to do it, because the status quo has not
18 achieved much in the way of gain.

19 I hope he goes wild on food safety discussions so
20 that we can actually improve our food safety supply. I
21 hope he goes wild on the health-care supply chains and,
22 in fact, tries to make sure that drug prices go down.
23 Instead of bludgeoning pharmaceutical companies, get
24 everybody in the room and make sure that we do this
25 right, reduce the cost of bringing a vaccine to market,

1 reduce the cost of bringing drugs and therapeutics to
2 market, look at the full supply chain. And somebody
3 with a legal mind may do that.

4 He is no health professional. In fact, he's the
5 first, I believe, since I've been alive who's not been a
6 health-care professional in a scientific sense, but he
7 is a professional in terms of carrying this forward and
8 holding people accountable through the courts. And
9 also, Mr. Chair -- I'm not going to go much longer --
10 but I had a lot of people call me earlier. I had people
11 from the agriculture industry call me and express
12 concerns, but I'm not aware of any organized, credible
13 group -- the Farm Bureau, the Department of Ag
14 Commissioners or others who have said that we should
15 vote against Mr. Kennedy.

16 I heard people express their concerns about his
17 pro-choice position and yet, I haven't seen any pro-life
18 organizations score this vote or recommend that we
19 should vote against it. I heard him call the NRA a
20 terrorist organization, and yet the NRA is silent on his
21 confirmation. And so, I've heard him say that GMOs are a
22 concern. Hopefully, we can convince him that not all
23 GMOS are. They're feeding the world. Corn, drought
24 resistance strains of healthy vegetables will move on.
25 Protein producers were mad about lawsuits that were

1 brought against them, but there's been no organized
2 opposition against him, and so maybe it is time to have
3 a different kind of disrupter there.

4 The only way that Senator Kennedy -- I'm sorry,
5 Senator Kennedy. The only way that Bobby Kennedy and I
6 will get crosswise is if he does actually take a
7 position against the safety of proven vaccines. That
8 would be a problem for me.

9 He answered a very important question to me during
10 the hearing. I asked specifically if it was his intent
11 to let the scientists of the CDC, the NIH, BARDA, and
12 other organizations work independently. He said to me
13 under oath that he would. If he fails to do that, that
14 would be a concern for me and something I'll bring up in
15 a future oversight hearing. But, Mr. Chair, we have not
16 made appreciable progress in Medicaid, in improving the
17 health of the population on Medicaid.

18 We have a SNAP program that does have too much
19 sugar and things that are eligible in that program that
20 should be eliminated to make these people who are on
21 free and reduced lunch healthier. We need to stop
22 having full trash cans in public school cafeterias full
23 of stuff that the kids aren't eating and figure out how
24 those kids on free and reduced lunch actually have a
25 healthy lifestyle.

1 And so I, for one, think that it is time to put a
2 disrupter in. It is time to put somebody in there who's
3 going to go wild. But there are areas where I think
4 that's exactly what we need and there are areas of
5 Health and Human Services that if you touch the gold
6 standard for the NIH and the CDC, then I'll have a
7 problem with that nominee, and we'll bring that up
8 during oversight. But it was for those reasons, and the
9 fact is that there is not a single organization that I
10 consider to be credible in this space -- in agriculture,
11 in second amendment, or in pro-life -- that has openly
12 objected and scored this vote.

13 I believe that silence is consent. And the fact
14 that they haven't suggests to me that folks that I'm
15 instructed by are okay with this nomination, and for
16 those reasons I voted for Mr. Kennedy.

17 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Tillis.

18 Senator Warren?

19 Senator Warren. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since
20 we had our hearing last week, Mr. Kennedy has amended
21 his Ethics Agreement. Recall that his Ethics Agreement
22 said that while he was Secretary of HHS he intended to
23 retain a financial interest in ongoing vaccine
24 litigation that he was already collecting money from and
25 that he wanted to continue to collect that money even

1 though he could affect the outcome of that litigation.

2 Now he has since changed his position on that once
3 this had been exposed and people have talked about it
4 and have some pretty serious reservations about his
5 doing that. He has said that he will, instead, give his
6 financial interest to his son. That's a fig leaf that
7 is so small it would take a magnifying glass to see it.

8 No one is fooled about what's happening here. Mr.
9 Kennedy refuses to say that he will not participate in
10 these lawsuits financially the day after he lives
11 office, and yet Mr. Kennedy has acknowledged, first,
12 that the American people have a right to know that the
13 decisions you're making are decisions that are in their
14 interest, not in your future financial interest.

15 He has said he thinks that is the right standard,
16 and yet he has figured out how to make money off his
17 anti-vax positions. He's already raked in 2-1/2 million
18 dollars. He is in a position where he can affect the
19 outcomes by things he does as Secretary of HHS, and yet
20 he refuses to say that he will delay by even a day
21 taking on anti-vax lawsuits the minute he leaves.

22 That is an appalling conflict of interest, and
23 it's one in which the American people can reasonably
24 ask, is Mr. Kennedy's plan to help the American people,
25 or is he planning to use this job to further enrich

1 himself -- and he's pointed out with his son -- and
2 enrich his family?

3 The importance of this litigation cannot be
4 overstated. This is not only about a private company
5 that gets sued and has to pay out. Vaccine
6 manufacturers often operate on very slim profit margins.
7 If they get sued repeatedly and successfully, they
8 simply move out of the vaccine space. We've already
9 seen this happen with vaccines in the past.

10 Twenty years ago, we watched vaccines just move
11 away if they did not have protection from these kinds of
12 lawsuits. The consequence of Mr. Kennedy's ability to
13 make those lawsuits easier is also the ability to shut
14 down access and manufacturing for vaccines for every one
15 of us, and I think that's a terrible mistake.

16 The Chairman. Thank you.

17 Senator Welch, did you wish to speak?

18 Senator Welch. I did. Yes, thank you. Thank
19 you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ranking Member, and thank you,
20 Mr. Ranking Member, for your statement.

21 I want a disrupter in the health care system, in
22 one leading it. I don't want a destroyer. And there
23 are three issues before any nominee that we have to
24 consider. One is character, another is competence, and
25 a third is priorities.

1 We did not have Caroline Kennedy here, but she
2 gave a statement, and she said that Bobby was able to
3 attract people through the strength of his personality,
4 his willingness to take risks and break the rules. And
5 those might be desirable qualities if they were
6 accompanied by sober judgment and behavior, because the
7 person who leads a major organization has to have the
8 confidence of the people that work for him. And
9 frankly, some of the things that he did but never
10 explained -- a chainsaw taking off the head of a whale,
11 dumping a bear in Central Park for his own amusement --
12 these are just weird things, and we never really got
13 into the character issue of what is required for a
14 person who runs such a major department.

15 The competence question -- this is all on a wing
16 and a prayer and a hope. There's no record of Mr.
17 Kennedy having experience in managing a large
18 organization in medicine, no experience with science,
19 and none of the prior experiences required, not only to
20 run a major organization, Health and Human Services, but
21 also the CDC, the NIH, and all the other organizations
22 that are under the umbrella of health care.

23 And by the way, on the competence issue, let's be
24 candid. This was a deal where Mr. Kennedy was running
25 for President as a Democrat. He lost, and he approached

1 President Trump to make a deal, and for political
2 reasons the deal was made and the appointment was going
3 to be that he's Health and Human Services. The
4 President has the right to make that deal. Mr. Kennedy
5 can seek it, but it doesn't translate into competence.

6 And the third is priorities. The priority for Mr.
7 Kennedy is about the vaccines and his theory of that.
8 And we need reliable vaccines and not a conspiracy
9 theorist on that. But you know, the health-care system
10 is not working for the American people. It is too
11 costly. Our employers who care deeply about providing
12 employer-sponsored health care can't afford these
13 premiums. The folks who are getting their insurance on
14 their own can't afford it. Even Obamacare is getting so
15 expensive because the prices are escalating constantly
16 with pharma expenses, with the providers having it, with
17 private equity getting into health care.

18 Mr. Kennedy's priority was about his view of
19 vaccines. It was not about making health care more
20 affordable and accessible. And in response to really a
21 very direct and easy open-ended question from Senator
22 Cassidy, Mr. Kennedy showed a woeful ignorance even
23 between the difference between Medicare and Medicaid. So
24 we have a health-care system that is not serving, as it
25 should, the interest of American citizens, of American

1 businesses, and American taxpayers. And I, after this
2 hearing, did not have confidence that Mr. Kennedy would
3 be the one to lead us to a better future. Thank you.

4 The Chairman. Thank you, Senator Welch.

5 That concludes the remarks that Senators have
6 requested to make. And hearing nothing further, I'd
7 like to thank all of our members for attending. This
8 Finance Committee stands adjourned.

9 [Whereupon, at 10:37 a.m., the meeting was
10 concluded.]

	STATEMENT OF:	PAGE
1		
2	Hon. Mike Crapo,	3
3	a U.S. Senator from Idaho,	
4	chairman, Committee on Finance	
5		
6	Hon. Ron Wyden,	5
7	a U.S. Senator from Oregon	