

1 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY REPORTING  
2 THE NOMINATIONS OF MAJORIE A. ROLLINSON, TO BE CHIEF  
3 COUNSEL, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, AND AN ASSISTANT  
4 GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY; AND  
5 REBECCA LEE HAFFAJEE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY,  
6 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

7

8 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

9 U.S. Senate,

10 Committee on Finance,

11 Washington, DC.

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13 The meeting was convened, pursuant to notice, at  
14 10:05 a.m., in Room 215, Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
15 Hon. Ron Wyden (chairman of the committee) presiding.

16 Present: Senators Crapo and Cassidy.

17 Also present: Democratic staff: Sam Conchuratt,  
18 Professional Staff Member; Joshua Sheinkman, Staff  
19 Director; and Tiffany Smith, Deputy Staff Director and  
20 Chief Counsel. Republican staff: Andrew Dell'Otro,  
21 Policy Advisor; Kellie McConnell, Health Policy  
22 Director; Gregg Richard, Staff Director; Lara Rosner,  
23 Social Security Policy Advisor; and James Williams, Tax  
24 and Economic Policy Advisor.

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

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4           The Chairman. The Finance Committee will come to  
5           order. We meet today to consider two pending  
6           nominations, Ms. Marjorie Rollinson and Dr. Rebecca  
7           Haffajee. We are going to use the time to make  
8           statements on the nominees. I am going to make a  
9           statement, followed by Senator Crapo. Then if any other  
10          Finance Members wish to, they will be able to make  
11          statements.

12          At that point, if we have a quorum we are going to  
13          proceed to a vote. If we do not have a quorum, we will  
14          recess until the next roll call vote on the Senate  
15          floor, and the Committee will reconvene off the floor to  
16          have the vote. Senator Crapo, is that acceptable to  
17          you?

18          Senator Crapo. Yes.

19          The Chairman. As I indicated, two important  
20          nominations are going to be discussed this morning, and  
21          the Committee vote on to who already have been approved  
22          last year. First is the nomination of Marjorie  
23          Rollinson to be chief counsel at the IRS.

24          The counsel's office is responsible for ensuring  
25          the agency implements the tax laws by the books. I am

1 pleased that the President has sent the Finance  
2 Committee a very qualified nominee. Ms. Rollinson has  
3 decades of tax and management experience in both the  
4 public and the private sector. That includes several  
5 years at the Office of the Chief Counsel that she has  
6 been nominated to run.

7 If confirmed, she would be the first woman to  
8 serve as chief counsel. It is no secret that Democrats  
9 and Republican have differing views about how the IRS  
10 should operate. But the position of the chief counsel  
11 has historically been one that has received bipartisan  
12 support.

13 I hope that that is going to be true today as  
14 well. The last chief counsel, Michael Desmond was  
15 reported out in the Finance Committee with a 26 to 2  
16 vote, and was concerned, confirmed by the Senate with an  
17 84 to 15 vote. I urge all of my colleagues to maintain  
18 that bipartisan support.

19 Second, the Committee has a nominee back for a  
20 third vote. Dr. Rebecca Haffajee is nominated to serve  
21 as the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation  
22 at the Department of Health and Human Services. This is  
23 not a policymaking role. Rather, it is about marshaling  
24 the data and research needed to ensure the Department is  
25 running as effectively as needed.

1           That includes work supporting some of this  
2           Committee's biggest priorities in health care, areas  
3           where Democrats and Republicans ought to be able to work  
4           together, and I bring that up because I see Senator  
5           Crapo and Senator Cassidy, both of whom have worked with  
6           me and have led bipartisan efforts, and that is what we  
7           are all about here.

8           Ensuring that all Americans can get the health  
9           care they need is critical, and it is important to get  
10          it when they need it. Improving health care in rural  
11          communities where people are often under-served and feel  
12          forgotten is a special priority of ours.

13          Dr. Haffajee is also a highly experienced and  
14          qualified nominee. She is an accomplished health policy  
15          researcher who has served as the acting Assistant  
16          Secretary since 2021, and as I indicated because this  
17          has not been a policymaking role, disagreements over  
18          policy in my view should not be a reason for this  
19          important post to continue to sit vacant.

20          So this, in my view, colleagues, is another  
21          nomination that has waited long enough. I urge my  
22          colleagues to support Dr. Haffajee's nomination. With  
23          that, I turn it over to my friend, Senator Crapo.

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

3

4           Senator Crapo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today we  
5           again consider the nomination of Ms. Rollinson to be  
6           chief counsel of the IRS, and Assistant General Counsel  
7           in the Department of Treasury, and Ms. Haffajee to serve  
8           as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

9           While both Ms. Rollinson and Ms. Haffajee have  
10          strong resumes and are accomplished in their respective  
11          fields, I intend to vote the same way I did last year.  
12          The IRS and the Department of Treasury each continue to  
13          present several challenges, which were explored at Ms.  
14          Rollinson's hearing and markup.

15          My concerns with the IRS and Treasury remain,  
16          including an increasingly partisan framing of IRS  
17          enforcement efforts and the tax gap, the IRS's ongoing  
18          development of the expensive and redundant direct file  
19          program, the continued failure of the IRS to properly  
20          address long-known security issues, and Treasury's  
21          promotion of the OECD Pillar Two negotiations absent its  
22          consideration of meaningful, Congressional input, to the  
23          harm of American businesses and workers.

24          Given the many unresolved issues at the IRS and  
25          Treasury, I will not be supporting Ms. Rollinson's

1 nomination today. That said, I look forward to working  
2 with her to fix the problems my colleagues and I have  
3 discussed throughout this process, should she be  
4 confirmed.

5 With regard to Ms. Haffajee's nomination, I  
6 previously raised concerns over her evasive answers to  
7 questions posed to her on religious liberty, abortion,  
8 and public health emergencies. I am still troubled that  
9 Ms. Haffajee will support the HHS Secretary's efforts to  
10 undermine state laws and individuals' constitutional  
11 rights.

12 I am not going to support her nomination today,  
13 but again, if confirmed, I will work with Ms. Haffajee  
14 to address these concerns.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 The Chairman. I thank my colleague. Obviously,  
17 with the three of us here, there is not a quorum  
18 present. At this point, unless there is an objection,  
19 the Committee will recess and reconvene to vote on the  
20 nomination following the first vote today.

21 At 2:15 off the Senate floor, we will vote in Room  
22 219. Without objection, it is so ordered. The  
23 Committee will now move to a hearing.

24 [Whereupon, at 10:11 a.m., the meeting was  
25 recessed.]

26

1           The open executive session was reconvened,  
2           pursuant to notice, on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at  
3           2:15 p.m., in Room S-219, U.S. Capitol, Hon. Ron Wyden  
4           (chairman of the committee) presiding.

5           The Chairman. The committee will come to order. We  
6           now have a quorum. I move that we favorably report the  
7           nomination of Marjorie Rollinson.

8           Senator Stabenow. Seconded.

9           The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

10          The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

11          Senator Stabenow. Aye.

12          The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

13          Senator Cantwell. Aye.

14          The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

15          Senator Menendez. Aye.

16          The Clerk. Mr. Carper?

17          Senator Carper. Aye.

18          The Clerk. Mr. Cardin?

19          Senator Cardin. Aye.

20          The Clerk. Mr. Brown?

21          Senator Brown. Aye.

22          The Clerk. Mr. Bennet?

23          Senator Bennet. Aye.

24          The Clerk. Mr. Casey?

25          Senator Casey. Aye.

1           The Clerk.    Mr. Warner?  
2           Senator Warner.    Aye.  
3           The Clerk.    Mr. Whitehouse?  
4           Senator Whitehouse.    Aye.  
5           The Clerk.    Ms. Hassan?  
6           Senator Hassan.    Aye.  
7           The Clerk.    Ms. Cortez Masto?  
8           Senator Cortez Masto.    Aye.  
9           The Clerk.    Ms. Warren?  
10          Senator Warren.    Aye.  
11          The Clerk.    Mr. Crapo?  
12          Senator Crapo.    Nay.  
13          The Clerk.    Mr. Grassley?  
14          Senator Crapo.    Nay by proxy.  
15          The Clerk.    Mr. Cornyn?  
16          Senator Crapo.    Nay by proxy.  
17          The Clerk.    Mr. Thune?  
18          Senator Crapo.    Nay by proxy.  
19          The Clerk.    Mr. Scott?  
20          Senator Crapo.    Nay by proxy.  
21          The Clerk.    Mr. Cassidy?  
22          Senator Cassidy.    Aye.  
23          The Clerk.    Mr. Lankford?  
24          Senator Crapo.    Nay by proxy.  
25          The Clerk.    Mr. Daines?



1 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.

2 The Clerk. Mr. Young?

3 Senator Young. Nay.

4 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?

5 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.

6 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?

7 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.

8 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?

9 Senator Tillis. Aye.

10 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?

11 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.

12 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?

13 The Chairman. Aye.

14 The clerk will announce the vote.

15 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 16  
16 ayes and 11 nays.

17 The Chairman. The "ayes" have it.

18 Finally, I move to the nomination of Rebecca Lee  
19 Haffajee.

20 Senator Stabenow. Seconded.

21 The Chairman. The Clerk will call the roll.

22 The Clerk. Ms. Stabenow?

23 Senator Stabenow. Aye.

24 The Clerk. Ms. Cantwell?

25 Senator Cantwell. Aye.

1           The Clerk.    Mr. Menendez?  
2           Senator Menendez.    Aye.  
3           The Clerk.    Mr. Carper?  
4           Senator Carper.    Aye.  
5           The Clerk.    Mr. Cardin?  
6           Senator Cardin.    Aye.  
7           The Clerk.    Mr. Brown?  
8           Senator Brown.    Aye.  
9           The Clerk.    Mr. Bennet?  
10          Senator Bennet.    Aye.  
11          The Clerk.    Mr. Casey?  
12          Senator Casey.    Aye.  
13          The Clerk.    Mr. Warner?  
14          Senator Warner.    Aye.  
15          The Clerk.    Mr. Whitehouse?  
16          Senator Whitehouse.    Aye.  
17          The Clerk.    Ms. Hassan?  
18          Senator Hassan.    Aye.  
19          The Clerk.    Ms. Cortez Masto?  
20          Senator Cortez Masto.    Aye.  
21          The Clerk.    Ms. Warren?  
22          Senator Warren.    Aye.  
23          The Clerk.    Mr. Crapo?  
24          Senator Crapo.    Nay.  
25          The Clerk.    Mr. Grassley?

1 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
2 The Clerk. Mr. Cornyn?  
3 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
4 The Clerk. Mr. Thune?  
5 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
6 The Clerk. Mr. Scott?  
7 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
8 The Clerk. Mr. Cassidy?  
9 Senator Cassidy. Nay.  
10 The Clerk. Mr. Lankford?  
11 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
12 The Clerk. Mr. Daines?  
13 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
14 The Clerk. Mr. Young?  
15 Senator Young. Nay.  
16 The Clerk. Mr. Barrasso?  
17 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
18 The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?  
19 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
20 The Clerk. Mr. Tillis?  
21 Senator Tillis. Nay.  
22 The Clerk. Mrs. Blackburn?  
23 Senator Crapo. Nay by proxy.  
24 The Clerk. Mr. Chairman?  
25 The Chairman. Aye.

1           The clerk will announce the vote.

2           The Clerk.   Mr. Chairman, the final tally is 14  
3 ayes and 13 nays.

4           The Chairman.   The "ayes" have it.  I Thank my  
5 colleagues.

6           [Whereupon, at 2:52 p.m., the meeting was  
7 adjourned.]

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