

Senator Bill Cassidy, MD
Questions for the Record
Treasury & SSAB Nominees
January 31st, 2024

1. Treasury Department - Bipartisan Collaboration

Ms. Tellez, you are currently the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, the position for which you are now nominated. Prior to joining Treasury, you served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director to Senate Majority Whip Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL). In that role you worked closely with my team to help pass INFORM Consumers, a common-sense bipartisan policy that is now law.

Question: (For Ms. Tellez) Given your track record of working well across the aisle, can you tell us how your past experience has informed your ability to both communicate with and work with offices in your acting capacity within the Department of Treasury?

Answer: What motivates me every day is helping to create and implement policies that improve the lives of people across the country. From my professional experience, I bring a deep appreciation for open dialogue between Congress and the Executive Branch and the importance of working to find common ground on tough issues. During my sixteen-year career on the Hill, I built and maintained relationships with staff and Members on both sides of the aisle to deliver results that benefited the American people. This work included legislation like the INFORM Consumers Act you mention and annual appropriations bills, just to name a few. I also requested and relied on timely and accurate information from Executive Branch agencies to resolve constituent issues, develop legislation that would be administrable, and ensure effective implementation of laws passed by Congress. I have applied these lessons to my current role at Treasury as Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs. During my time at Treasury, I have worked to ensure my team and the Department are responsive to Congress so Members and staff have the information they need to accomplish their legislative goals. I have worked with offices on both sides of the aisle to ensure the Department understands and addresses Congressional priorities in Treasury's purview. I would look forward to continuing this engagement with and responsiveness to Congress, if I am confirmed.

Question: (For Ms. Tellez) If confirmed, can you tell us how you will further strengthen the relationship between the Treasury Legislative Affairs office and the Hill?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to being a full partner to your office, the Senate Finance Committee, and all of Congress. I will ensure we provide timely, accurate responses to Congressional inquiries, whether official correspondence, Questions for the Record, briefing requests, or other means. I will foster an environment that

provides for open dialogue between the Department and Congress, so that we understand Congressional priorities, elevate those respectfully within the Department so they can be addressed, and ensure we are sharing updates on Treasury's work that are of interest to Congress. If confirmed, I look forward to being a resource to Congress, and would continue the direct, frequent engagement I have had thus far during my time at Treasury.

Questions For the Record
Senator Charles E. Grassley
Hearing to Consider Nominations
January 31, 2024
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Questions for Corey Anne Tellez:

1. While fulfilling my constitutional obligation to conduct oversight of the executive branch of government, I and my staff frequently ask questions of and request information from components of the Treasury Department and specifically the Internal Revenue Service. I am concerned that it may take longer to receive responses and information if requests to components of Treasury are also scrubbed by main Treasury.

Do you agree that components of the Treasury Department, such as the Internal Revenue Service, should be able to respond to questions and requests for information from members of Congress directly without the Treasury Department itself acting as a bottleneck and slowing down the flow of information?

Will you encourage staff throughout the Treasury Department to respond to questions and requests from members of Congress freely without seeking approval from yourself or other Treasury leadership?

Answer: Individual Treasury bureaus, including the Internal Revenue Service, have legislative affairs offices that regularly answer questions and inquiries from congressional offices. I agree that it is important for these legislative affairs offices to be able to act quickly to respond to urgent congressional requests, including constituent inquiries.

When responding to any congressional inquiry, Treasury strives to ensure that it is providing the most accurate, comprehensive information that reflects the position of the Department as a whole. There are many matters on which various Treasury bureaus and offices work together closely and collaboratively, including matters where the Internal Revenue Service coordinates with Treasury's Office of Tax Policy. Accordingly, different Treasury components sometimes work together to respond to a congressional inquiry relating to any such matter. This ensures that all relevant internal stakeholders are given an opportunity to contribute to the response, so that Congress can get an accurate and complete response on which it can rely.

2. On Friday, February 10, 2023, Secretary Yellen finally responded to written questions sent to her after a June 7, 2022, hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2023 budget request. Aside from being unprofessionally extremely late, the response included the disclaimer that "Secretary Yellen's responses to these Questions for the Record reflect

information available as of the date of receipt of these questions, June 16th, 2022.” Considering the responses were received nearly 8 months after the questions were asked, this disclaimer was entirely inappropriate.

Unfortunately, this lengthy delay is not unusual for the length of time it has taken Treasury officials to respond to written questions for the record.

How long do you think is appropriate for members of this and other committees to wait for responses to written questions?

If it is not possible to respond promptly or other considerations need to be made when responding to my questions or requests, do you pledge to discuss those issues with myself or my staff, and not let others determine the conditions under which my inquiries are responded to?

Answer: The goal of Treasury’s Office of Legislative Affairs is to get you information that is accurate, is up-to-date, and reflects the position of the Department as a whole. Since you are relying on this information to conduct your legislative work, it is important that we get things right.

Questions for the Record often span a broad range of issues, including many issues on which various Treasury offices work closely and collaboratively. Upon receiving Questions for the Record, the Office of Legislative Affairs promptly begins the process of coordinating with subject-matter experts across the Department to obtain accurate and timely responses that reflect the views of all relevant stakeholders. This process can take considerable time, even though the Department is making every effort to respond quickly.

If confirmed, I commit that I will do all that I can to ensure these processes work smoothly and expeditiously. The Department is, and will remain, an important partner for Congress as it works to fulfill its legislative agenda.

United States Senate Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider the Nominations of Corey Anne Tellez, Andrew G. Biggs, Kathryn
Rose Lang, and Sharon Beth Lewis
January 31, 2024

Questions for Corey Anne Tellez, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the
Treasury, vice Jonathan Davidson

Senator Young

Question 1

Ms. Tellez, one of the important roles that Congress plays in relation to the executive branch is providing oversight of executive branch activities.

How do you plan to work with members of this Committee and their staff to ensure members are able to effectively engage with the Treasury Department and provide critical oversight of the department?

Answer: I deeply value the oversight role of Congress and believe government functions best when Congress conducts robust and rigorous oversight to identify waste, fraud, and abuse. After having been a staffer on the Hill for sixteen years, I know firsthand how important the relationship between Congress and the Executive Branch is for effective oversight and for enacting and implementing policies that help the American people. The Department endeavors to be responsive to all inquiries that we receive from Members of Congress, and the goal of the Office of Legislative Affairs is always to provide Congress information that would be helpful to inform its work.

If confirmed, I will foster an open dialogue between Congress and Treasury by ensuring Members and staff have access to Treasury experts and leadership to discuss issues important to them, hearing from Congress about their priorities and relaying those priorities respectfully within the Department, and engaging with both sides of the aisle. If confirmed, one of my top priorities will also be to provide Congress with timely and accurate responses because I know how essential this information is for the work of Congress.

Question 2

In this role, you would be tasked with advising the Secretary of the Treasury on congressional policy matters.

Can you please outline how you intend to ensure transparency between the Treasury Department and Congress if confirmed to this role?

Answer: During my time on Capitol Hill and at Treasury, I have seen firsthand how critical open dialogue and regular engagement between these two branches of government is for developing and implementing policies that benefit the American people. If confirmed, I would look forward to being a full partner to this Committee. What that means to me is that I would regularly engage with Congress to understand congressional priorities, elevate these issues within the Department and work to address these priorities, share information with Congress about Treasury programs and implementation of laws passed by Congress, and provide timely, accurate responses to congressional inquiries.