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117TH CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
117–9

REPORT

ON THE ACTIVITIES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

OF THE

UNITED STATES SENATE

DURING THE

116TH CONGRESS

PURSUANT TO

Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules

OF THE

UNITED STATES SENATE



APRIL 13, 2021.—Ordered to be printed

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[116TH CONGRESS—COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP]

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SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, Rhode Island

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BILL CASSIDY, Louisiana, *Chairman*

TIM SCOTT, South Carolina
JAMES LANKFORD, Oklahoma [7]
BEN SASSE, Nebraska [5]
MAGGIE HASSAN, New Hampshire
RON WYDEN, Oregon

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[1] Left the committee December 31, 2019.
[2] Joined the committee January 6, 2020.
[3] Left the subcommittee January 6, 2020.
[4] Left the subcommittee January 6, 2020.
[5] Joined the subcommittee January 6, 2020.
[6] Joined the subcommittee January 6, 2020.
[7] Left the subcommittee January 6, 2020.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2021.

Honorable SONCERIA "ANN" BERRY,
Secretary, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: In accordance with rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the United States Senate and the pertinent unanimous consent order pertaining to this rule, I am transmitting herewith a report on the activities of the Committee on Finance of the United States Senate for the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

RON WYDEN, *Chairman.*

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117TH CONGRESS
1st Session

SENATE

REPORT
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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE DURING THE 116TH CONGRESS

APRIL 13, 2021.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WYDEN, from the Committee on Finance,
submitted the following

REPORT

This report reviews the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee on Finance during the 116th Congress. These activities parallel the broad scope of responsibilities vested in the committee by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, rule XXV(k) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and additional authorizing resolutions.

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

Rule XXV(i) of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires reference to this committee of all proposed legislation, and other matters, dealing with (i) Committee on Finance, to which committee shall be referred all proposed legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other matters relating to the following subjects:

1. Bonded debt of the United States, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.
2. Customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery.
3. Deposit of public moneys.
4. General revenue sharing.
5. Health programs under the Social Security Act and health programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund.
6. National social security.
7. Reciprocal trade agreements.
8. Revenue measures generally, except as provided in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.
9. Revenue measures relating to the insular possessions.
10. Tariffs and import quotas, and matters related thereto.
11. Transportation of dutiable goods.

COMMITTEE RULES

I. RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 1. *Regular Meeting Days.*—The regular meeting day of the committee shall be the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, except that if there be no business before the committee the regular meeting shall be omitted.

Rule 2. *Committee Meetings.*—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 3 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to special meetings called by a majority of the committee) and subsection (b) of this rule, committee meetings, for the conduct of business, for the purpose of holding hearings, or for any other purpose, shall be called by the chairman. Members will be notified of committee meetings at least 48 hours in advance, unless the chairman determines that an emergency situation requires a meeting on shorter notice. The notification will include a written agenda together with materials prepared by the staff relating to that agenda. After the agenda for a committee meeting is published and distributed, no nongermane items may be brought up during that meeting unless at least two-thirds of the members present agree to consider those items.

(b) In the absence of the chairman, meetings of the committee may be called by the ranking majority member of the committee who is present, provided authority to call meetings has been delegated to such member by the chairman.

Rule 3. *Presiding Officer.*—(a) The chairman shall preside at all meetings and hearings of the committee except that in his absence the ranking majority member who is present at the meeting shall preside.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a) any member of the committee may preside over the conduct of a hearing.

Rule 4. *Quorums.*—(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) one-third of the membership of the committee, including not less than one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

(b) Notwithstanding the rule prescribed by subsection (a) one member shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

Rule 5. *Reporting of Measures or Recommendations.*—No measure or recommendation shall be reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee is actually present and a majority of those present concur.

Rule 6. *Proxy Voting; Polling.*—(a) Except as provided by paragraph 7(a)(3) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitation on use of proxy voting to report a measure or matter), members who are unable to be present may have their vote recorded by proxy.

(b) At the discretion of the committee, members who are unable to be present and whose vote has not been cast by proxy may be polled for the purpose of recording their vote on any rollcall taken by the committee.

Rule 7. *Order of Motions.*—When several motions are before the committee dealing with related or overlapping matters, the chairman may specify the order in which the motions shall be voted upon.

Rule 8. *Bringing a Matter to a Vote.*—If the chairman determines that a motion or amendment has been adequately debated, he may call for a vote on such motion or amendment, and the vote shall then be taken, unless the committee votes to continue debate on such motion or amendment, as the case may be. The vote on a motion to continue debate on any motion or amendment shall be taken without debate.

Rule 9. *Public Announcement of Committee Votes.*—Pursuant to paragraph 7(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public announcement of votes), the results of rollcall votes taken by the committee on any measure (or amendment thereto) or matter shall be announced publicly not later than the day on which such measure or matter is ordered reported from the committee.

Rule 10. *Subpoenas.*—Subpoenas for attendance of witnesses and the production of memoranda, documents, and records shall be issued by the chairman, or by any other member of the committee designated by him.

Rule 11. *Nominations.*—In considering a nomination, the committee may conduct an investigation or review of the nominee's experience, qualifications, and suit-

ability, to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated. To aid in such investigation or review, each nominee may be required to submit a sworn detailed statement including biographical, financial, policy, and other information which the committee may request. The committee may specify which items in such statement are to be received on a confidential basis. Witnesses called to testify on the nomination may be required to testify under oath.

Rule 12. *Open Committee Hearings.*—To the extent required by paragraph 5 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to limitations on open hearings), each hearing conducted by the committee shall be open to the public.

Rule 13. *Announcement of Hearings.*—The committee shall undertake consistent with the provisions of paragraph 4(a) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (relating to public notice of committee hearings) to issue public announcements of hearings it intends to hold at least one week prior to the commencement of such hearings.

Rule 14. *Witnesses at Hearings.*—(a) Each witness who is scheduled to testify at any hearing must submit his written testimony to the staff director not later than noon of the business day immediately before the last business day preceding the day on which he is scheduled to appear. Such written testimony shall be accompanied by a brief summary of the principal points covered in the written testimony. Having submitted his written testimony, the witness shall be allowed not more than 10 minutes for oral presentation of his statement.

(b) Witnesses may not read their entire written testimony, but must confine their oral presentation to a summarization of their arguments.

(c) Witnesses shall observe proper standards of dignity, decorum, and propriety while presenting their views to the committee. Any witness who violates this rule shall be dismissed, and his testimony (both oral and written) shall not appear in the record of the hearing.

(d) In scheduling witnesses for hearings, the staff shall attempt to schedule witnesses so as to attain a balance of views early in the hearings. Every member of the committee may designate witnesses who will appear before the committee to testify. To the extent that a witness designated by a member cannot be scheduled to testify during the time set aside for the hearing, a special time will be set aside for the witness to testify if the member designating that witness is available at that time to chair the hearing.

Rule 15. *Audiences.*—Persons admitted into the audience for open hearings of the committee shall conduct themselves with the dignity, decorum, courtesy, and propriety traditionally observed by the Senate. Demonstrations of approval or disapproval of any statement or act by any member or witness are not allowed. Persons creating confusion or distractions or otherwise disrupting the orderly proceeding of the hearing shall be expelled from the hearing.

Rule 16. *Broadcasting of Hearings.*—(a) Broadcasting of open hearings by television or radio coverage shall be allowed upon approval by the chairman of a request filed with the staff director not later than noon of the day before the day on which such coverage is desired.

(b) If such approval is granted, broadcasting coverage of the hearing shall be conducted unobtrusively and in accordance with the standards of dignity, propriety, courtesy, and decorum traditionally observed by the Senate.

(c) Equipment necessary for coverage by television and radio media shall not be installed in, or removed from, the hearing room while the committee is in session.

(d) Additional lighting may be installed in the hearing room by the media in order to raise the ambient lighting level to the lowest level necessary to provide adequate television coverage of the hearing at the then current state of the art of television coverage.

(e) The additional lighting authorized by subsection (d) of this rule shall not be directed into the eyes of any members of the committee or of any witness, and at the request of any such member or witness, offending lighting shall be extinguished.

Rule 17. *Subcommittees.*—(a) The chairman, subject to the approval of the committee, shall appoint legislative subcommittees. All legislation shall be kept on the full committee calendar unless a majority of the members present and voting agree to refer specific legislation to an appropriate subcommittee.

(b) The chairman may limit the period during which House-passed legislation referred to a subcommittee under paragraph (a) will remain in that subcommittee. At the end of that period, the legislation will be restored to the full committee calendar. The period referred to in the preceding sentences should be 6 weeks, but may be extended in the event that adjournment or a long recess is imminent.

(c) All decisions of the chairman are subject to approval or modification by a majority vote of the committee.

(d) The full committee may at any time by majority vote of those members present discharge a subcommittee from further consideration of a specific piece of legislation.

(e) The chairman and ranking minority member shall serve as nonvoting *ex officio* members of the subcommittees on which they do not serve as voting members.

(f) Any member of the committee may attend hearings held by any subcommittee and question witnesses testifying before that subcommittee.

(g) Subcommittee meeting times shall be coordinated by the staff director to ensure that—

(1) no subcommittee meeting will be held when the committee is in executive session, except by unanimous consent;

(2) no more than one subcommittee will meet when the full committee is holding hearings; and

(3) not more than two subcommittees will meet at the same time.

Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), a subcommittee may meet when the full committee is holding hearings and two subcommittees may meet at the same time only upon the approval of the chairman and the ranking minority member of the committee and subcommittees involved.

(h) All nominations shall be considered by the full committee.

(i) The chairman will attempt to schedule reasonably frequent meetings of the full committee to permit consideration of legislation reported favorably to the committee by the subcommittees.

Rule 18. *Transcripts of Committee Meetings.*—An accurate record shall be kept of all markups of the committee, whether they be open or closed to the public. A transcript, marked as "uncorrected," shall be available for inspection by members of the Senate, or members of the committee together with their staffs, at any time. Not later than 21 business days after the meeting occurs, the committee shall make publicly available through the Internet—

(a) a video recording;

(b) an audio recording; or

(c) after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements, a corrected transcript.

Notwithstanding the above, in the case of the record of an executive session of the committee that is closed to the public pursuant to Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the record shall not be published or made public in any way except by majority vote of the committee after all members of the committee have had a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks for grammatical errors or to accurately reflect statements made.

Rule 19. *Amendment of Rules.*—The foregoing rules may be added to, modified, amended, or suspended at any time.

TAX

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

In the 116th Congress, the Senate Finance Committee was responsible for the enactment of significant legislation including expansion of retirement savings, improvements to tax administration, extension of expiring provisions, and tax relief to address the individual and economic effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

During the first session, the Finance Committee focused on completing several pieces of unfinished business from the 115th Congress. This included finalizing legislation to improve tax administration and compliance with a focus on improving taxpayer service, strengthening taxpayer rights, and modernizing the Internal Revenue Service. The legislation was ultimately enacted as the Taxpayer First Act (Pub. L. No. 116–25), in July 2019. The committee also completed work that began in the 114th Congress to enhance retirement saving in the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act of 2019, which was enacted as part of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116–94) in December 2019.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 also extended numerous expired and expiring provisions, known as "extenders," generally through 2020. The Finance Committee formed five member-led task forces to examine and report on the expiring provisions, which served as a foundation for the extenders legislation. A sixth task force focused on disaster assistance and contributed to the tax relief included in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 for individuals and businesses affected by recent natural disasters.

The committee's work in the second session was dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic and its far-reaching effects on the health and safety of individuals, families, and businesses across the Nation. The committee played a leading role in providing tax relief to help Americans during the pandemic response and assist businesses to continue their operations and keep employees on payroll to the greatest extent possible, which was included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Pub. L. No. 116–127) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. No. 116–136) enacted in March 2020. The committee worked closely with the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that individual relief, in particular the Economic Impact Payments, and the business and employment provisions, were implemented as quickly as possible. The committee also worked throughout the remainder of the year to develop additional legislation to provide tax relief to help families and to help employers rehire workers and resume operations, significant portions of

which were enacted on December 27, 2020, in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116–260).

Building on the work from the first session, the committee developed legislation to address the tax extenders expiring at the end of 2020. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 included the committee's legislation making a number of provisions permanent, extending some for 5 years, and continuing others through 2021. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 also included tax relief for victims of the natural disasters that occurred across the country in 2020.

Throughout both sessions, the committee continued its consultations with the Treasury Department on the implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Pub. L. No. 115–97). Additionally, the committee continued to engage with the Treasury Department and other stakeholders regarding the ongoing discussions of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and its efforts to develop consensus proposals regarding the taxation of digital services, global profit allocation, nexus, and anti-tax base erosion proposals.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

2019

March 14, 2019—"President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget." The hearing covered the President's 2020 budget as well as the operations of the Department of the Treasury and various issues concerning implementation of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

April 10, 2019—"The 2019 Tax Filing Season and the 21st-Century IRS." The hearing examined issues related to the 2019 tax filing season and modernization of the Internal Revenue Service, including IRS performance, customer service challenges, and information technology. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC.

May 14, 2019—"Challenges in the Retirement System." The hearing focused on current challenges in the U.S. retirement system and reviewed current legislation, including the Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act (RESA), additional policy ideas to improve retirement savings, and State programs to increase access to tax-preferred retirement savings plans. Testimony was heard from Joni Tibbetts, vice president, retirement and income solutions, The Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, IA; the Honorable Tobias Read, Oregon State Treasurer, Salem, OR; Joan Ruff, board chair, AARP, Washington, DC; and Lynn D. Dudley, senior vice president, global retirement and compensation policy, American Benefits Council, Washington, DC.

2020

February 12, 2020—"President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget." The hearing covered the President's 2021 budget and the operations of the Department of the Treasury. Testimony was heard from

the Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

June 30, 2020—"2020 Filing Season and IRS COVID–19 Recovery." The hearing examined issues related to the 2020 tax filing season and the Internal Revenue Service's efforts to implement the provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and recover from the COVID–19 pandemic shutdown requirements. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Washington, DC.

FULL COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING

December 11, 2019—Full Committee Member Meeting to review options available to address the financial challenges facing the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the multiemployer pension system. The meeting focused on the current state of the multiemployer pension system and plans in the most critical condition. Panelists focused on features of the Grassley-Alexander multiemployer pension relief proposal, including financial relief to failing plans and the need for funding and other reforms to protect participant and retiree benefits and to ensure the long-term stability of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's insurance fund. The briefing panel included the Honorable Gordon Hartogensis, Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, Washington, DC; Thomas Barthold, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation, Washington, DC; and Sheila Dacey, Chief, Income Security and Education Cost Estimates Unit, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

2020

October 7, 2020—"The Fiscal Outlook." Testimony was heard from the Honorable Phillip L. Swagel, Ph.D., Director, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC; and the Honorable Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, PENSIONS, AND FAMILY POLICY

2020

December 9, 2020—"Investigating Challenges to American Retirement Security." Testimony was heard from Scott Barr, AAMS, financial advisor, Edward Jones, Zanesville, OH; Eric Stevenson, president, retirement plans, Nationwide, Columbus, OH; Michael P. Kreps, principal, Groom Law Group, Washington, DC; and Joshua Luskin, president, National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators, Lexington, KY.

TRADE

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

In the 116th Congress, the Senate Finance Committee sought to enact policies to expand trade and investment-related opportunities for American businesses, farmers, and workers, including through oversight of how the administration conducted trade policy. Notably, the committee guided passage of landmark legislation approving and implementing the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the modernized successor to the North American Free Trade Agreement. This modernized agreement will enhance opportunities for Americans with two of our most important trading partners, Canada and Mexico.

The committee also advised and conducted oversight of ongoing trade agreement negotiations being conducted pursuant to Trade Promotion Authority, including those with the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Kenya, as well as other trade-related negotiations including those that culminated in the phase 1 deal with China. The committee ensured the administration remained abreast of committee priorities as those negotiations advanced.

The committee held several hearings to examine the U.S. trade policies and to assess opportunities to improve and increase trade. Of particular importance, the committee held two hearings regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO). Those hearings provided an opportunity for members to consider how U.S. trade policy could help reform this critically important institution.

Outside of hearings, the committee also examined a number of the administration's trade actions, including investigations that the Department of Commerce undertook pursuant to section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and the U.S. Trade Representative pursuant to section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. The committee also requested that the U.S. International Trade Commission conduct investigations pursuant to section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to identify and understand the trade in goods related to addressing the coronavirus pandemic, as well as an investigation into how foreign censorship practices adversely affect American trade interests.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

2019

March 12, 2019—"Approaching 25: The Road Ahead for the World Trade Organization." The committee examined the administration's approach to reform at the World Trade Organization, particularly with regard to the Appellate Body's operation and how to move forward with new WTO rules to address China's unfair trade practices. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Robert

E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC.

June 18, 2019—"The President's 2019 Trade Policy Agenda and the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement." The committee examined the President's trade priorities for 2019, particularly the push to replace NAFTA with the USMCA. The hearing also featured discussions on enforcement of U.S. trade laws to address trade irritants; pursuing trade agreements with the European Union, Japan, and the United Kingdom; negotiations with China to resolve a broad range of trade issues; and WTO reform. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC.

July 30, 2019—"The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement." The committee examined the provisions in the USMCA and emphasized the benefits the updated agreement would bring to American businesses, families, and workers. Testimony was heard from Paula Barnett, owner, designer, maker, Paula Elaine Barnett Jewelry, Brownsville, OR; the Honorable Matt Blunt, president, American Automotive Policy Council, Washington, DC; James C. Collins, Jr., chief executive officer, Corteva Agriscience, Wilmington, DE; Derek Leathers, president and chief executive officer, Werner Enterprises, Inc., Omaha, NE; the Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack, president and chief executive officer, U.S. Dairy Export Council, Arlington, VA; and Michael Wessel, staff chair, Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy, and president, The Wessel Group, Washington, DC.

2020

June 17, 2020—"The President's 2020 Trade Policy Agenda." The committee examined the President's trade priorities for 2020 in light of the COVID–19 pandemic. The committee examined implementation of the USMCA and China phase 1 deal, trade negotiations with the United Kingdom and Kenya, WTO reform, and digital services taxes implemented by U.S. trading partners. Testimony was heard from the Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC.

July 29, 2020—"WTO Reform: Making Global Rules Work for Global Challenges." The committee examined longstanding issues at the WTO and the need for a strong WTO reform agenda. The committee highlighted the importance of the WTO to U.S. interests, particularly in regard to confronting China. Testimony was heard from Jennifer A. Hillman, senior fellow for trade and international political economy, Council on Foreign Relations, and professor, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC; Thomas R. Graham, partner, Cassidy Levy Kent, Washington, DC; Laura J. Lane, chief corporate affairs and communications officer, UPS, Washington, DC; Joseph W. Glauber, Ph.D., senior research fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC; and Michele Kuruc, vice president, ocean policy, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, DC.

FULL COMMITTEE OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION

January 7, 2020—Open Executive Session to consider the United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation Act and to favorably report the bill to the floor.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, CUSTOMS, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

2019

June 12, 2019—"China's Belt and Road Initiative." The subcommittee examined China's Belt and Road Initiative and expressed concerns over China using this initiative to exert influence over recipient countries. Testimony was heard from Carolyn Bartholomew, Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Washington, DC; Roy D. Kamphausen, Commissioner, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission; Daniel Kliman, Ph.D., senior fellow and director, Asia-Pacific Security Program, Center for a New American Security, Washington, DC; and Derek Scissors, Ph.D., resident scholar, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC.

2020

June 30, 2020—"Censorship as a Non-Tariff Barrier to Trade." The subcommittee met to highlight the economic harm Chinese censorship imposes on U.S. companies. Testimony was heard from Richard Gere, chairman, International Campaign for Tibet, Washington, DC; Nigel Cory, associate director, trade policy, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Washington, DC; Beth Baltzan, fellow, Open Markets Institute, Washington, DC; and Clete R. Willems, partner, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld LLP, Washington, DC.

SAGON MEETINGS

February 6, 2019—Meeting of the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations, as required by section 104(c)(1) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, to discuss congressional priorities for trade negotiations and agreements during the 116th Congress. The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC, testified.

March 12, 2020—Meeting of the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations to discuss potential trade negotiations with Kenya. The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC, testified.

HEALTH

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

In the 116th Congress, the committee focused on improving Medicare and Medicaid programs for individuals, providers, and taxpayers.

In July of 2019, the committee reported the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act (PDPRA) in a bipartisan vote of 19–9. PDPRA, which is based on information gathered in a three-part hearing series, would lower patient's costs, address manufacturer price increases, increase transparency, reduce Federal spending, and lower commercial drug costs.

The committee played a key role in passing Medicaid and Medicare improvements into law. In April of 2019, Congress passed and the President signed the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019, which helps ensure medically complex children receive coordinated care in the Medicaid program, and prevents drug makers from misclassifying drugs to avoid paying Medicaid rebates. In December of 2019, the committee crafted policies that were signed into law in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 that ensure Medicare beneficiaries have access to vital services and items, including stem cell transplants, laboratory tests, and complex wheelchair equipment.

The committee also authored several policies included in legislation to respond to the COVID–19 pandemic, most notably the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that the Congress passed and the President signed into law in March of 2020. Examples of CARES Act policies that help patients and providers include: expanded Medicare telehealth flexibilities; Medicare coverage of COVID–19 vaccines with no beneficiary cost-sharing; loans to hospitals and other providers in the form of an advance on future Medicare payments, and expanded patient use of Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts.

In March of 2020, the committee issued a bipartisan stakeholder request for information on how to tackle poor maternal health outcomes, a crisis that disproportionately affects women of color and women living in rural areas. The committee undertook a process to identify bipartisan policy ideas to improve maternal health outcomes in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program recommended by stakeholders and individual Senators.

The committee authored several provisions that were included in H.R. 133, the vehicle for government funding, health extenders, COVID–19 relief, and other matters that Congress passed and the President signed into law in December 2020. The bill includes policies that extend expiring Medicare, Medicaid, and Human Services programs for 3 years and provide other support to patients and providers, including by strengthening rural health care infrastruc-

ture and permanently expanding access to mental health services via telehealth.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

2019

January 29, 2019—"Drug Pricing in America: A Prescription for Change, Part I." Testimony was heard from Kathy Sego, mother of a child with insulin-dependent diabetes, Madison, IN; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Ph.D., president, American Action Forum, Washington, DC; Mark Miller, Ph.D., executive vice president of health care, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Houston, TX; and Peter B. Bach, M.D., director, Center for Health Policy and Outcomes, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY.

February 26, 2019—"Drug Pricing in America: A Prescription for Change, Part II." Testimony was heard from Richard A. Gonzalez, chairman and chief executive officer, AbbVie Inc., North Chicago, IL; Pascal Soriot, chief executive officer, AstraZeneca, Wilmington, DE; Giovanni Caforio, M.D., chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company, New York, NY; Jennifer Taubert, executive vice president, worldwide chairman, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ; Kenneth C. Frazier, chairman and chief executive officer, Merck and Company, Inc., Kenilworth, NJ; Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D., chief executive officer, Pfizer, New York, NY; and Olivier Brandicourt, M.D., chief executive officer, Sanofi, Bridgewater, NJ.

March 14, 2019—"President's Fiscal Year 2020 Health Care Proposals." Testimony was heard from the Honorable Alex M. Azar II, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

April 9, 2019—"Drug Pricing in America: A Prescription for Change, Part III." Testimony was heard from Steve Miller, M.D., executive vice president and chief clinical officer, Cigna Corporation, Bloomfield, CT; Derica Rice, executive vice president, CVS Health, and president, CVS Caremark, Woonsocket, RI; William K. Fleming, Pharm.D., segment president, healthcare services, Humana, Inc., Louisville, KY; John M. Prince, chief executive officer, OptumRx, Minnetonka, MN; and Mike Kolar, interim president and CEO, Prime Therapeutics, LLC, Eagan, MN.

May 8, 2019—"Medicare Physician Payment Reform After Two Years: Examining MACRA Implementation and the Road Ahead." Testimony was heard from Barbara L. McAneny, M.D., president, American Medical Association, Chicago, IL; John Cullen, M.D., FAAFP, president, American Academy of Family Physicians, Leawood, KS; Frank Opelka, M.D., FACS, medical director for quality and health policy, American College of Surgeons, Chicago, IL; Scott Hines, M.D., director, American Medical Group Association, Alexandria, VA; and Matthew Fiedler, Ph.D., fellow, USC–Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.

2020

February 13, 2020—"President's Fiscal Year 2021 Health Care Proposals." Testimony was heard from the Honorable Alex M. Azar II, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

FULL COMMITTEE OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION

July 25, 2019—Open Executive Session to consider an original bill entitled "The Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

2019

October 30, 2019—"Medicaid: Compliance With Eligibility Requirements." Testimony was heard from Brian P. Ritchie, Assistant Inspector General for Audit Services, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Carolyn L. Yocom, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Daryl G. Purpera, CPA, CFE, Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA; and Judith Solomon, senior fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC.

November 20, 2019—"Alzheimer's Awareness: Barriers to Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care Coordination." Testimony was heard from Jason Karlawish, M.D., professor of medicine, medical ethics and health policy, and neurology, and co-director, Penn Memory Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; Janet Tomcavage, R.N., MSN, chief nursing executive, Geisinger, Winfield, PA; Marc A. Cohen, Ph.D., clinical professor of gerontology, McCormack Graduate School, and co-director, LeadingAge LTSS Center, University of Massachusetts Boston, and research director, Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation, Community Catalyst, Newton, MA; and Lauren Kovach, Alzheimer's advocate, Brighton, MI.

2020

December 16, 2020—"The Alzheimer's Crisis: Examining Testing and Treatment Pipelines and Fiscal Implications." Testimony was heard from Nikolay Dokholyan, Ph.D., M.S., G. Thomas Passananti professor and vice chair for research, Pennsylvania State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA; Randall J. Bateman, M.D., Charles F. and Joanne Knight distinguished professor of neurology, and director, Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network (DIAN), DIAN Trials Unit (DIAN–TU), Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO; Richard C. Mohs, Ph.D., chief scientific officer, Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation, Chicago, IL; and Maria Carrillo, Ph.D., chief science officer, Alzheimer's Association, Chicago, IL.

HUMAN SERVICES

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

In the 116th Congress, the Senate Finance Committee was responsible for the enactment of significant legislation including child welfare support, extension of expiring human services programs, unemployment insurance, and relief to support children and families in the child welfare system in relation to the Coronavirus (COVID–19) pandemic.

On December 20, 2020, the Family First Transition Act was enacted as part of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116–94). This law helps States transform their child welfare systems to keep more children safely at home with their families. It builds upon foster care reforms made by the 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and helps jurisdictions have the resources to successfully transition to FFPSA implementation. The committee also authored the Emergency Aid for Returning Americans Affected by Coronavirus Act (Pub. L. No. 116–148), which became law on July 13, 2020. This law temporarily raised the cap for the Department of Health and Human Services repatriation program from $1 million to $10 million for fiscal year 2020 to help individuals brought back to the U.S. as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic, while ensuring that individuals engaged directly with those repatriated have proper training and protective equipment.

The committee also authored several human services policies included in legislation to respond to the COVID–19 pandemic. Most notably, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (Pub. L. No. 116–136), which became law on March 27, 2020, included substantial funding for unemployment insurance (UI) programs to address the needs of millions who lost jobs or who were otherwise unable to work as a result of COVID–19. The committee held a hearing to review the implementation of the UI policies and to discuss the role of UI in responding to the economic effects of the pandemic.

The committee authored several human services provisions that became law on December 27, 2020, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116–260). The bill includes policies that extend expiring Human Services programs through the end of fiscal year 2021 and in select cases extends programs for 3 years. It also provided enhanced UI benefits and included the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act that provided additional support to children and families in the foster care system, including transition-age youth impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARING

June 9, 2020—"Unemployment Insurance During COVID–19: The CARES Act and the Role of Unemployment Insurance During The Pandemic." Testimony was heard from the Honorable Eugene Scalia, Secretary, Department of Labor, Washington, DC; Scott B. Sanders, executive director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, Washington, DC; Beth Townsend, Director, Iowa Workforce Development, Des Moines, IA; José Javier Rodríguez, State Senator, Florida Senate, Miami, FL; Les Neilly, president, Neilly Canvas Goods Company, Pittsburgh, PA; and Michele Evermore, senior researcher and policy analyst, National Employment Law Project, Washington, DC.

FULL COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING

July 30, 2019—Meeting to review the status of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and opportunities for reform. The briefing panel included: Clarence Carter, Director, Office of Family Assistance, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Gene Falk, Specialist in Social Policy, Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC; Donna Pavetti, vice president for family income support, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC; and Michelle Derr, senior researcher, Mathematica, Washington, DC.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

During the 116th Congress, the committee focused on child care challenges facing working parents by convening a bipartisan Paid Family Leave Working Group.[1] After convening a members' roundtable on this topic during the coronavirus pandemic, the committee also supported enactment of emergency relief legislation to address the paid family leave needs of working parents during the national emergency period.

Also during the 116th Congress, the committee focused on significant challenges confronting the elderly and other vulnerable populations. In 2019, for example, the committee held two hearings to explore the adequacy of reporting and investigation of abuse, neglect, or exploitation in long-term care facilities that participate in Federal financing programs within the committee's jurisdiction.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which was invited to participate in the first of these two hearings, announced the same week that the agency would begin making reforms to the agency's Nursing Home Compare website, effective the following month.[2] (The following year, CMS announced that it would phase out its original Nursing Home Compare tools in favor of a new, unified Care Compare site, launched in September 2020. The chairman, by letter dated February 3, 2021, then called for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a review of Care Compare to ensure that this new site as well as CMS's nursing home rating system fully addresses any previously identified deficiencies.) At the second hearing, the Finance Committee received additional testimony from the U.S. Government Accountability Office and others on the need for reforms to promote the detection and reporting of neglect or abuse and thereby enhance the safety of elderly residents of long-term care facilities. Weeks later, CMS announced additional sweeping changes to strengthen the agency's oversight of nursing home inspections.[3]

In 2020, committee leaders, joined by Ways and Means Committee leaders in the other chamber, requested an evaluation, by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Health

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[1] *See* website of Senator Grassley, "Grassley, Wyden Convene Finance Committee Paid Family Leave Working Group" (May 22, 2019), *https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-wyden-convene-finance-committee-paid-family-leave-working-group.*

[2] Website of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), "CMS Improving Nursing Home Compare in April 2019; Changes offer greater support to consumers looking to compare quality of nursing homes" (March 5, 2019), *https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-improving-nursing-home-compare-april-2019.*

[3] CMS website, "Trump Administration Strengthens Oversight of Nursing Home Inspections to Keep Patients and Residents Safe; CMS announces enhanced oversight of State inspectors and the inspection process, responding to growing concerns about consistency and timeliness of inspections" (October 17, 2019), *https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-strengthens-oversight-nursing-home-inspections-keep-patients-and-residents-safe.*

and Human Services (HHS), of psychotropic prescription use in nursing homes.[4] This bipartisan, bicameral request was motivated by concerns about whether adequate safeguards exist to protect against these drugs' unnecessary use in the facilities that participate in financing programs within the committee's jurisdiction. (The last examination of this topic, a 2011 report by the HHS OIG that followed a request from the chairman, indicated that 14 percent of American nursing home residents had Medicare claims for these drugs to treat behavioral symptoms commonly associated with dementia.[5] This 2011 report also found that at least half the Medicare claims for these drugs were erroneous, leading to $116 million in inappropriate Medicare reimbursements.)

During the coronavirus pandemic, the committee chairman again championed the interests of the mostly frail and elderly residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. Recognizing that these residents were particularly susceptible to the worst effects of this virus, the chairman voiced concerns to HHS and CMS officials about COVID–19 testing capacity, inconsistencies in data tracking, and a lack of personal protective equipment in nursing homes, among other issues.[6] The chairman also encouraged issuance of Federal guidelines for States, to promote uniformity in tracking and reporting COVID–19 cases in nursing homes. CMS responded 3 days later by publicly announcing a commitment to address most of the concerns outlined in the chairman's letter of April 17, 2019.[7]

Committee leaders later called for the issuance by the HHS OIG of public alerts to ensure that Medicaid recipients who reside in nursing facilities are not required to hand over, to the facilities in which they reside, any Economic Impact Payments that these residents received under legislation adopted by Congress in response to the coronavirus pandemic.[8] In September 2020, the majority staff of the committee also issued a comprehensive report detailing the factors that may have fueled the virus's early transmission in nursing homes and led to an especially high case and fatality rate among nursing home residents.[9] This majority staff report also

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[4] Letter from Senate Finance Committee (SFC) Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden et al. to Acting Inspector General Christi Grimm, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (April 3, 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-04-06%20CEG,%20RW,%20et%20al%20to%20HHS%20OIG%20(Psychotropic%20Drugs%20in%20Nursing%20Facilities).pdf*.

[5] Report by HHS Office of Inspector General, "Medicare Atypical Antipsychotic Drug Claims for Elderly Nursing Home Residents" (May 2011), available at *https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-08-00150.pdf*.

[6] Letter from Senator Grassley to CMS Administrator Seema Verma (April 17, 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/HHSCOVIDLetter17Apr2020Final.pdf* (citing factors, such as the high death toll and infection control failure rate in some nursing homes, which underscore the importance of "encouraging coronavirus testing and compliance with CDC guidelines for reducing COVID–19 transmission in these facilities" and ensuring "that any Medicaid- and Medicare-funded facilities accepting COVID–19 patients have adequate staffing, equipment, and other necessary safeguards in place").

[7] *See* website of Senator Grassley, "Grassley Welcomes CMS Action to Require Coronavirus Reporting in Nursing Homes" (April 20, 2020), *https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-welcomes-cms-action-require-coronavirus-reporting-nursing-homes*.

[8] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden to Acting Inspector General Christi Grimm (June 8, 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-06-08%20CEG,%20Wyden%20to%20HHSOIG%20(Stimulus%20Checks%20in%20Nursing%20Homes).pdf*.

[9] Report of SFC Majority Staff, "COVID–19 in Nursing Homes: What Went Wrong and Next Steps" (September 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/SFC NursingHomesCOVIDMajorityStaffSFCReport23Sep2020FINAL.pdf*. *See also* website of Senator Grassley, "Finance Committee Releases Report on Performance of Nursing Homes and Long-

highlighted best practices adopted by some nursing homes to limit the spread of COVID–19 among the personnel and residents of these facilities.

Also in 2020, the Finance Committee chairman unveiled a proposal to make resources available for strike teams to support nursing homes that were overwhelmed by the pandemic and extend Elder Justice Act programs. The chairman later led a group of colleagues in calling on Senate leaders to make resources available for these same programs (as well as related initiatives to reduce social isolation among nursing home residents) as part of a year-end coronavirus relief package.[10]

The committee also explored challenges facing those struggling with addiction, for example, by conducting a Finance Committee hearing on the 1-year anniversary of the enactment of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act. At this hearing, the Surgeon General described ongoing efforts to implement the statute's provisions to combat the national opioid crisis, while other witnesses testified to instances of addiction treatment fraud in a growing number of States. In a letter to senior officials at HHS and CMS, the committee chairman also pressed for full implementation of strategies recommended by the Government Accountability Office to prevent opioid misuse and abuse in programs within the committee's jurisdiction.[11]

In another letter to these same HHS and CMS officials, the committee chairman requested information on why other recommended reforms to improve the accountability of certain mental health grant programs had yet to be implemented.[12] (This September 2019 letter from the chairman followed the issuance by GAO of two reports that cited deficiencies in tracking and evaluating the use of grant funding.) Among other requests, the chairman sought a list of the Department's crisis intervention programs designed to prevent acts of violence as well as each program's purpose and the amount of funding each receives. This letter also requested that the Department describe metrics used to evaluate certain grantees' performance and provide additional information on the Department's process for evaluating program performance.

The chairman also made it a priority, during the 116th Congress, to champion initiatives to promote the accountability of, and thereby prevent waste, fraud, or abuse in, Federal programs that serve vulnerable populations within the committee's jurisdiction. For example, in 2019 the chairman revived the committee's 2004 efforts to identify misspent Medicaid dollars (an area of longstanding con-

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Term Care Facilities During the COVID–19 Pandemic" (last visited October 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/finance-committee-releases-report-on-performance-of-nursing-homes-and-long-term-care-facilities-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.*

[10] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley, Senator Daines, et al. to Senate Leaders McConnell and Schumer (December 18, 2020), available at *https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2020-12-18%20CEG%20et%20al%20to%20McConnell%2C%20Schumer%20-%20Televisitation.pdf*.

[11] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley to HHS Secretary Alex Azar and CMS Administrator Seema Verma (June 6, 2019), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2019-06-06%20CEG%20to%20HHS,%20CMS%20(Opioid%20Misuse%20Strategy).pdf. See also* website of Senator Grassley, "Grassley Presses HHS, CMS on Federal Strategies to Combat Opioid Abuse" (June 6, 2019), *https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news/news-releases/grassley-presses-hhs-cms-federal-strategies-combat-opioid-abuse*.

[12] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley to HHS Secretary Alex Azar (September 3, 2019), available at *https://www.grassley.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018-09-03%20CEG%20to%20HHS%20-%20SAMHSA%20Grant%20Oversight.pdf*.

cern, because every misspent dollar weakens this program for the tens of millions of low-income individuals and persons with disabilities who rely on Medicaid for preventive care, lifesaving health services, and other services to promote independent living). The majority staff of the committee unearthed government audits that cited recurring instances of improper Medicaid payments for deceased beneficiaries—in some cases, for as long as 2 years after the beneficiary's death.

After finding that multiple State agencies charged with distributing Medicaid dollars have yet to fully institute an adequate mechanism to prevent Federal benefits from flowing on behalf of deceased Medicaid beneficiaries, the chairman called on the CMS Administrator to exercise greater leadership in this area, by instituting "reforms to prevent, rather than simply recoup, wasteful Medicaid payments."[13] As noted in the chairman's October 2019 letter:

> For example, CMS should revisit and possibly upgrade its existing tools for preventing Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse. The agency should identify new tools, in addition to its most recent informational bulletin, to help States identify providers or managed care organizations that submit high numbers of improper Medicaid claims that received managed care payments from States for the deceased. CMS also should promote the adoption of protocols or policies to ensure that State Medicaid agencies can quickly and efficiently compare Medicaid payment claims against death records kept by other State or Federal agencies.

Restoring fiscal integrity to this and other Federal programs under the committee's jurisdiction is a continuing and vitally important task for the committee to fulfill, in the effort to safeguard Americans' hard-earned tax dollars and ensure the effective implementation of government programs.

Early in 2019, the committee chairman also led a group of over 20 Senators in questioning the adequacy of a new national process for allocating human livers that are donated for transplant.[14] The chairman later expanded his efforts in this area, focusing attention not only on organ allocation, but also on organ donation and procurement. The committee ultimately launched a comprehensive review of the entire organ procurement and transplantation system. This bipartisan effort, led by the chairman with other committee members, has focused on the adequacy of efforts by the government's contractor, known as the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), to oversee and ensure the accountability of the Nation's organ donation and procurement process, which is led by 58 organ procurement organizations (OPOs) across the United States.

The chairman in December 2019 requested that the HHS OIG, which had conducted audits of selected OPOs, provide the com-

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[13] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley to CMS Administrator Seema Verma (October 1, 2019), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/MedicaidOversightLetter1Oct.2019SpecProjects%20-%20FINAL%20430PM.pdf*.

[14] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley, Senator Blunt, et al. to HHS Secretary Azar (January 19, 2019), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CEG%20Liver%20Letter%20Signed%20FINAL.pdf*. *See also* website of Senate Finance Committee (last visited December 30, 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/grassley-blunt-20-senate-colleagues-demand-answers-on-changes-to-national-liver-distribution-policy*.

mittee with additional details relating to its audit report findings. (These HHS OIG audit reports cited unallowable and inappropriate uses of Medicare funds for certain OPO expenses.)[15] Committee leaders in February 2020 also sent an initial letter to UNOS requesting information and documents on UNOS activities.[16] The committee later determined that issuance of a subpoena compelling production of UNOS documents related to the committee's investigation was necessary, and on February 3, 2021, the chairman issued such a subpoena to UNOS with the support of the committee's ranking member. UNOS has indicated that it will comply with the subpoena. This investigation is ongoing.

During consideration of H.R. 133, an omnibus spending package enacted in December 2020, this committee's leaders worked with Ways and Means Committee leaders in the other chamber to champion the inclusion of $100 million in emergency funding for elder justice initiatives. Committee leaders in both chambers also pushed for inclusion, in a December 2020 continuing resolution, of legislation that will promote transparency in government, by requiring CMS to furnish information, upon request, to certain non-group health plans (*e.g.,* liability insurers), about whether an individual was enrolled in Medicare, Medicare Advantage, or the Medicare prescription drug benefit during the preceding 3-year period.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

2019

March 6, 2019—"Not Forgotten: Protecting Americans From Abuse and Neglect in Nursing Homes." Testimony was heard from Patricia Blank, daughter of nursing home neglect victim, Shell Rock, IA; Maya Fischer, daughter of nursing home abuse victim, Seminole, FL; David Grabowski, Ph.D., professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA; David Gifford, M.D., MPH, senior vice president, quality and regulatory affairs, American Health Care Association, Washington, DC; Kate Goodrich, M.D., Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, and Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD; Antoinette Bacon, Associate Deputy Attorney General and National Elder Justice Coordinator, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, DC; and Keesha Mitchell, Director, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Office of the Ohio Attorney General, Columbus, OH.

July 23, 2019—"Promoting Elder Justice: A Call for Reform." Testimony was heard from Megan H. Tinker, Senior Advisor for Legal Affairs, Office of Counsel to the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; John E. Dicken, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Robert B. Blancato, national coordinator, Elder Jus-

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[15] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley and Senator Young to HHS Acting Inspector General Christi Grimm (December 18, 2019), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/CEG.Young%20to%20HHSOIG%20(OPO%20Oversight)%20Dec.18.2019.pdf*.

[16] Letter from SFC Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Wyden, et al., to Brian Shepard, Chief Executive Officer of United Network for Organ Sharing (February 10, 2020), available at *https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-02-10%20Grassley,%20Wyden,%20Young,%20Cardin%20to%20UNOS%20(Information%20Request%20on%20Organ%20Transplant%20System).pdf*.

tice Coalition, Washington, DC; the Honorable Mark Parkinson, president and chief executive officer, American Health Care Association, Washington, DC; and Lori Smetanka, executive director, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Washington, DC.

October 24, 2019—"Treating Substance Misuse in America: Scams, Shortfalls, and Solutions." Testimony was heard from the Honorable Jerome M. Adams, M.D., MPH, Surgeon General, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Mary Denigan-Macauley, Ph.D., Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Gary Cantrell, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; and Gary Mendell, founder and chief executive officer, Shatterproof, New York, NY.

FULL COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETING

BI-PARTISAN WORKING GROUP ON PAID FAMILY LEAVE

June 18, 2020—Roundtable on "Paid Leave Proposals in the COVID Era."

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Health Care

In 2019, the committee held a series of oversight hearings focused on drug pricing in America. The committee invited patients, parents, pharmaceutical company executives, and pharmacy benefit managers to identify reforms that will help drive down the high cost of prescription drugs.

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden have long raised concerns about the lack of transparency in the pharmaceutical industry. In the past, their oversight work led to the revelation that Mylan, the manufacturer of EpiPen, misclassified its popular anti-allergy medication as a generic instead of a brand name and took advantage of a loophole in Medicaid to overcharge taxpayers for the drug by as much as $1.27 billion over 10 years. In 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden introduced the Right Rebate Act to close the loophole. The legislation also provided the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with additional authorities to monitor drug manufacturers, imposed reporting and transparency requirements on the government to show how its authorities are used, and allowed the Secretary of HHS to reclassify drugs and impose civil monetary penalties when drugs are knowingly misclassified. The legislation was signed into law in April 2019.

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden partnered on a bipartisan investigation into insulin prices. In February 2019, they sent letters to leading insulin manufacturers, Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, and Eli Lilly, seeking information regarding recent price increases of up to 500 percent or more for insulin, a treatment available for diabetes for nearly 100 years. The letter requested information about list price increases, changes in the net price (*i.e.,* the price pharmaceutical companies received after negotiating rebates and discounts), copies of internal memoranda, correspondence, and rebate agreements with pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). In April 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden also sent letters to the three largest PBMs, CVS Caremark, OptumRx, and Express Scripts, inquiring about their role in the U.S.'s drug pricing system and how their pricing practices contribute to the rising cost of insulin. The letter focused on rebates and other contracting practices used by PBMs and health insurers because these terms are not transparent to patients, payers, or Congress. The chairman and ranking member issued their report and findings in January 2021.

In April 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden also jointly began investigations of companies in their home States

that provide services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). In December 2020, they released two investigative reports regarding the performance and efficacy of providers REM Iowa and MENTOR Oregon, which receive significant Federal funding through Medicaid to provide care for individuals with I/DD. The committee's review of REM Iowa found that the company has had and continues to face problems, including failures to report abuse or neglect, failures to follow an individual's particular care plan, and failures to adhere to clients' medication schedules. The committee's report made three specific recommendations to REM Iowa: improve training practices for employees, improve access to data, and establish a process to track and monitor critical incidents using electronic databases. The committee's report also recommended that the Federal and State Governments improve oversight, outreach, and support for facilities facing systemic issues.

The MENTOR Oregon report highlighted the fact that despite years of regulatory attention, the company has not turned the corner regarding the level of care provided to its clients. Insufficient staff training, failure to complete incident reports, substantiated acts of neglect, not meeting clients' medical needs, and poor facility conditions have forced the Oregon Department of Human Services—and county-level entities—to take increased measures.

The Finance Committee also conducted an investigation of nonprofit hospitals. In 2019, Chairman Grassley requested specific information from the IRS regarding its oversight of nonprofit hospitals, after media reports emerged on this subject questioning whether these hospitals met the criteria for tax-exempt status, whether they served their communities appropriately, and whether they served individuals in need regardless of ability to pay. Grassley later sent letters to the University of Virginia Health System and Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in Memphis, TN, requesting information about their billing and debt-collection practices with respect to low-income patients. On December 2, 2020, Chairman Grassley wrote a letter to every member of the Senate Finance and Judiciary Committees about the need for new attention to the tax laws governing non-profit hospitals.

Taxes

In 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden opened an investigation into syndicated conservation-easement transactions, which are transactions that may abuse charitable conservation tax incentives in order to facilitate tax shelters.

In August 2020, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden concluded their investigation and released a report, finding such syndicated transactions are "nothing more than retail tax shelters that let taxpayers buy tax deductions at the end of any given year, . . . which thousands of taxpayers used to game the tax code and deprive the Federal Government of billions of dollars in revenue." It concluded that "the IRS has strong reason for taking enforcement action against syndicated conservation-easement transactions as it has to date" and called on Congress, the IRS, and the Department of the Treasury to take further action to preserve the integrity of the conservation-easement tax deduction.

To that end, Chairman Grassley joined Senators Steve Daines (R–Mont.) and Pat Roberts (R–Kan.) in reintroducing the Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act, which will protect conservation easements from abuse, save taxpayers billions of dollars, and promote conservation around the country. In December 2020, Senator Grassley and Senator Daines joined Senator Wyden (D–Ore.) and Senator Stabenow (D–Mich.) in introducing similar legislation that would serve the same conservation purposes.

Trade

In 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden partnered on a bipartisan investigation into counterfeit goods sold online and then issued a report, "The Fight Against Fakes," which detailed five findings and two legislative recommendations. Their report outlined the harm posed to consumers by counterfeits and discussed statutory barriers that prevent information sharing between the Federal Government and its private industry partners with respect to counterfeit goods seized and/or detained at U.S. ports of entry.

Tax-Exempts

In June 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden conducted an investigation into the financial relationship between opioid manufacturers and tax-exempt organizations. They sent letters to 10 tax-exempt organizations, seeking to understand how pharmaceutical manufacturers' donations to these organizations affected their advocacy for specific pain treatment strategies. In December 2020, the chairman and ranking member released a letter to colleagues and a report detailing their findings.

Based on financial data collected for this investigation, the report found that, between 1997 and 2019, opioid manufacturers paid over $65 million dollars to tax-exempt organizations as part of a strategy to market and sell their opioids products. The report also created case studies for three organizations, including the American Chronic Pain Association, Americans for Patient Access, and the International Association for the Study of Pain. These organizations, their officers, and their board members received millions of dollars from manufacturers of opioids and opioid-related products while promoting increased use of their donor's products. Many of these board members also serve on Federal advisory boards and make recommendations to the public and policy-makers on opioids and opioids prescribing practices.

Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden urged their colleagues to consider expanding the Open Payments database to require opioid manufacturers to report payments made to non-profit organizations as well as to increase transparency in Federal advisory boards.

In 2019, Ranking Member Wyden issued a staff report after an 18-month investigation into the National Rifle Association that revealed NRA leaders inappropriately leveraged the organization's resources and political connections in pursuit of lucrative overseas personal business deals. In its 2019 990 tax filing, the NRA acknowledged that its officers had engaged in at least $1.4 million in

prohibited excess benefit transactions with the true total unknown, pending the outcome of lawsuits against the organization by the Attorneys General of New York and the District of Columbia.

Chairman Grassley issued an accompanying majority staff report, which found no wrongdoing by the NRA or its officials for having traveled to Russia in December 2015 that would reasonably call into question the NRA's tax-exempt status, based on the documents provided to the committee. The majority staff found that a handful of NRA officials may have turned a goodwill trip to Russia into multipurpose travel, tending to both an invitation by Russians to NRA personnel as well as their own professional matters during the same trip. The majority staff also concluded there is nothing wrong with taking a trip with two purposes in mind, even if one of those purposes involves a tax-exempt organization.

Pandemic Relief

The coronavirus pandemic that spread throughout the United States in 2020 created a pressing need for oversight. In February 2020, Chairman Grassley's staff received a classified briefing from the HHS Office of National Security (ONS) regarding the coronavirus threat and the status of U.S. Government efforts to combat the spread of the deadly virus. On June 2, 2020, the committee held a hearing titled, "COVID–19 and Beyond: Oversight of the FDA's Foreign Drug Manufacturing Inspection Process." The hearing was based on Chairman Grassley's oversight work on the FDA's foreign drug manufacturing facility inspection process and highlighted the risks associated with drugs manufactured in foreign countries, especially China, and imported to the United States. At the hearing, Chairman Grassley introduced into the committee record thousands of pages of records that he acquired during his FDA investigation relating to China- and India-based drug manufacturing facilities.

In order to help protect against waste, fraud, and abuse during the pandemic, Chairman Grassley wrote to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) encouraging the IRS watchdog to engage in a public awareness and education campaign informing Americans of scams and frauds related to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the Federal Government's response. Chairman Grassley also partnered with Senator Amy Klobuchar (D–Minn.) in calling on the Department of Justice (DOJ) to take vigorous action to protect consumers from price-gouging during the pandemic and help prevent the hoarding of essential medical supplies.

On May 24, 2020, Chairman Grassley urged the U.S. intelligence community to further incorporate and provide intelligence access to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of National Security (ONS) to strengthen the governmental response to the COVID–19 public health crisis and future health concerns. In response, the Intelligence Community committed to ensuring better cooperation.

In 2020, Chairman Grassley and a bipartisan group of Senators also introduced legislation to ensure families of public safety officers lost to COVID–19 could quickly access survivor benefits. The Safeguarding America's First Responders Act (SAFR), which was

referred to the Judiciary Committee, clarified the certification requirements for survivor benefits under the Public Safety Officers Benefits Program to account for the unique challenges presented by the pandemic. In August 2020, President Trump signed the bill into law.

Chairman Grassley also led a bipartisan group of Senators in introducing legislation to boost oversight of billions in taxpayer-funded pandemic relief. Referred to the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, The Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery Expedited Hiring Authority Act, which was modelled on laws that granted expedited hiring authority to special IGs in the past, would provide the SIGPR temporary hiring authority to bypass the normally lengthy government hiring process, quickly staff his office, and begin timely oversight operations.

National Security

On June 5, 2019, the Finance Committee held a hearing on foreign threats to taxpayer-funded research titled "Foreign Threats to Taxpayer-Funded Research: Oversight Opportunities and Policy Solutions." That same day, Chairman Grassley held a classified member-level briefing on the same subject. In addition to his inquiries to DoD, Chairman Grassley also pressed the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Health and Human Services Inspector General, Justice Department, and Government Accountability Office on foreign threats to taxpayer-funded research. Chairman Grassley also worked to get the Office of National Security, located within HHS, access to additional government databases necessary to track and counter these threats. ONS gained access to some additional classified databases as a result of those oversight efforts.

On June 10, 2019, Senator Grassley and Senator Marco Rubio (R–Fla.) wrote to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG) to request a review of whether CMS made payments for genetic testing to U.S. entities with ties to the Chinese Government. The letter also asked about whether CMS considers national security risks when determining whether payments to entities linked to the Chinese Government are permissible. The HHS OIG agreed to perform a review of whether CMS considers national security risks before certifying laboratories that conduct genomic testing.

Human Services

The Finance Committee conducted an investigation of the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to examine serious allegations of misconduct and abuse by federally funded grantees operating facilities that house unaccompanied migrant children. On May 9, 2019, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden wrote a letter to Assistant Secretary Lynn Johnson raising concerns about the severity and systemic nature of allegations against these taxpayer-funded grantees and whether ORR was meeting its responsibility to hold its grantees accountable and ensure the health and safety of children in their care.

In addition, Senator Grassley undertook several additional oversight efforts, as follows:

Defense

During the 116th Congress, Chairman Grassley also investigated wasteful spending by the Department of Defense (DoD). In May 2019, Chairman Grassley sent a letter to then-Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan seeking details about how the DoD contracts with businesses and other entities with respect to overpricing, specifically citing TransDigm Group Inc. (Transdigm). Additionally, Chairman Grassley asked about the DoD's ability to collect cost data from those entities and how Congress can help DoD stop price-gouging practices. In October 2019, the Chairman sent a follow-up letter to Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, seeking an update on how DoD was confronting TransDigm's costly price-gouging schemes. Committee staff then continued to work with DoD IG throughout 2020 to make sure the DoD IG's second audit of TransDigm contracts was rigorous and thorough.

Chairman Grassley also conducted oversight of DoD's Office of Net Assessment (ONA). In a July 2019 letter, Chairman Grassley pressed ONA for information regarding allegations that contracts granted to Professor Stefan Halper were used to support potential partisan political or other improper or wasteful activities. A DoD Inspector General audit revealed significant flaws in ONA's contract management practices.

Additional documents reviewed by Chairman Grassley called into question ONA's stewardship of taxpayer dollars as well as its contract management and internal controls. The Pentagon issued a corrective action plan for ONA in August 2020. On December 18, 2020, Chairman Grassley sent a letter urging DoD IG to expand its review of ONA to determine why the office has not performed it's statutorily mandated duty to perform a formal net assessment since 2007 and whether the office is still necessary in light of these revelations.

Separately, on January 23, 2020, Chairman Grassley sought an Inspector General investigation into the manufacturing practices of Lockheed Martin's C–130J aircraft after whistleblower reports stated that an apparent lack of oversight by the Department of Defense resulted in significant health and safety concerns. On October 8, 2020, Chairman Grassley sought additional information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding the manufacturing practices of Lockheed Martin's C–130J after learning of discrepancies in the initial investigation.

In 2020, Chairman Grassley also pressed the DoD on the new Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) program regarding alleged conflicts of interest pertaining to those charged with creating its bid and reported disputes between bidders and the Department. This came after the DoD Inspector General completed a review and provided recommendations in response to Chairman Grassley and members of Congress raising concerns about the JEDI program.

In 2020, Chairman Grassley and others sent a letter to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, urging them to in-

clude in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2021 certain provisions that would make progress towards a clean audit, including more detailed reporting to Congress on DoD financial management systems. Both of the provisions were ultimately included in the final version of the NDAA passed in December 2020.

In 2020, Chairman Grassley also made inquiries into potential wasteful and inappropriate travel spending at the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), specifically seeking full and complete answers to prior questions he had raised about multiple unnecessary trips by DoDEA personnel to Hawaii.

Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation

Throughout the 116th Congress, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Ron Johnson (R–Wis.), who chaired the Senate Homeland Security Committee, engaged in oversight activity with respect to Crossfire Hurricane and its origins. The DOJ Inspector General conducted an investigation into portions of Crossfire Hurricane and issued a nearly 500-page report. The report determined the dossier to be central and essential to the Justice Department's and FBI's efforts to obtain Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrant applications with one FBI General Counsel Unit Chief stating that with respect to finding probable cause the dossier "pushed it over" the line. The Inspector General determined that the FBI's FISA applications included at least 17 errors and omissions. After further reviewing the DOJ OIG report on Crossfire Hurricane, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson then sent Barr a follow-up letter requesting the declassification of four footnotes in the classified version of the Inspector General report. Those footnotes were later declassified. On April 2, 2020, Chairmen Grassley and Johnson requested that the Director of National Intelligence, Ambassador Richard Grenell, declassify additional footnotes from the classified version of the report. Additional footnotes were later declassified.

On April 25, 2019, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson wrote to the DOJ about allegations the FBI may have improperly used a counterintelligence briefing to conduct surveillance on the Trump transition team during Crossfire Hurricane. The Senators' letter inquired about the extent of the FBI's surveillance of the Trump campaign and transition staff. Subsequently, in its review of the FBI's Crossfire Hurricane Investigation, the DOJ OIG found that an FBI Supervisory Special Agent did attend certain counterintelligence briefings for 2016 presidential candidates and that at least one briefing was used for investigative purposes. The OIG found that DOJ and FBI did not have a policy with respect to using candidate counterintelligence briefings for investigative purposes; however, after the report issued, the FBI established new protocols that prohibited those briefings from being used for investigative purposes.

In October 2019, Chairman Grassley again joined Chairman Johnson in sending a letter to Attorney General Barr, calling for transparency in the reported DOJ criminal inquiry into the origins of the Russia investigation. On October 2, 2019, Chairman Grassley also sent a letter to the Intelligence Community Inspector Gen-

eral (IC IG) regarding a number of leaks of highly sensitive information relating to the Russia investigation, as well as a whistleblower complaint that led to Trump's impeachment.

As part of his effort to bring transparency to the events surrounding the FBI's investigation and surveillance of the Trump campaign and transition, on May 12, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson requested a list of Obama-era officials who unmasked Lieutenant General Michael Flynn's name in classified intelligence documents where it had previously been redacted. In response, the Intelligence Community provided a list that identified nearly two dozen senior government officials, including then-Vice President Biden, who requested to unmask Flynn. News reports have indicated that the DOJ's unmasking review found no wrongdoing; however, DOJ has not formally communicated its findings to Congress.

On October 14, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson sent another letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray and Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe seeking an unredacted version of a spreadsheet created by the FBI to attempt to corroborate allegations made in the Steele Dossier.

In October 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson also released a majority staff report raising concerns about how the FBI and Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Office sought and received access to the records of Donald J. Trump's presidential transition team, Trump for America, Inc.

In September 2020, Chairman Grassley pressed DOJ for details on steps taken to recover material deleted from mobile devices assigned to Mueller's team and investigate potential violations of Federal record-keeping laws.

In November 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson received a partially declassified version of briefing notes for then-Director James Comey summarizing the FBI's investigative efforts regarding Crossfire Hurricane. After receipt, the chairmen sent a follow-up letter to Barr requesting full declassification.

On December 3, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson released over 400 pages of records acquired from the DOJ, FBI, and State Department during their investigation into the FBI's handling of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

On December 17, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson released declassified messages from former FBI agent Peter Strzok related to Crossfire Hurricane.

Chairman Grassley also conducted oversight of DOJ's enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). On June 18, 2019, Chairman Grassley and other Senators wrote to DOJ to ask why it had not required Al Jazeera to register as a foreign agent under FARA. In November 2020, Chairman Grassley asked the Justice Department to evaluate whether Hunter and James Biden should have registered as foreign agents for their business arrangements with the Chinese Government-backed energy company, CEFC China Energy, in compliance with FARA.

During 2019 and 2020, Chairman Grassley and Senator Mark Warner (D–Va.) continued to investigate the fatal shooting of Bijan Ghaisar by U.S. Park Police in 2017. In June 2019, Grassley and Warner decried the opaque and drawn-out nature of the review in

letters to both the FBI and National Park Service (NPS). The DOJ then announced its decision not to pursue action against the U.S. Park Police officers who shot and killed Ghaisar. Throughout 2020, Chairman Grassley continued to press the DOJ to provide details on specific reforms being implemented to improve investigations of fatal shootings.

Education

In 2019, Chairman Grassley sent letters to the presidents of Duke University, Harvard University, Sarah Lawrence College, and Villanova University, seeking information on the current culture of academic freedom on campus. In October 2020, Chairman Grassley followed up by sending a letter to his colleagues discussing the responses of those colleges and universities.

Chairman Grassley also conducted extensive oversight work relating to the Chinese Government-backed Confucius Institutes and urged colleges and universities around the country to request FBI briefings to fully understand the academic research and national security threats posed by the organizations operating on campuses. In addition, Chairman Grassley was a co-sponsor and strong supporter of the Concerns Over Nations Funding University Campus Institutes in the United States (CONFUCIUS) Act, which passed the Senate in July 2020.

Good Government and Transparency

In 2019, following complaints from dozens of whistleblowers, Chairman Grassley began investigating whistleblower allegations of low morale, low productivity, and staff departures at the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General. During the investigation, which also included the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, as well as the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, dozens of current and former staff for the Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General spoke with committee staff. Chairman Grassley wrote multiple public letters which brought public attention to the IG's significant management challenges.

In the spring of 2020, Chairman Grassley objected to the removals of the Intelligence Community Inspector General and the State Department Inspector General, after President Trump removed each without providing substantive reasons to Congress as required by statute. Chairman Grassley introduced bipartisan legislation, the Securing Inspector General Independence Act of 2020, referred to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to provide that the President or certain agency heads may remove an Inspector General, or place an Inspector General on non-duty status, only if certain conditions are satisfied.

On April 14, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Wyden wrote to Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, in his role as Chair of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), regarding CIGIE's role in the Inspector General nominating process. They inquired about the CIGIE recommendation process, the consistency of its advice to the White House, the rate at which its advice is taken by the White

House, and how often CIGIE has expressed concerns about IG vacancies.

Additionally, Chairman Grassley partnered with Senator Maggie Hassan (D–N.H.) to introduce bipartisan legislation to increase transparency and accountability within the Federal Government. The Oversight.gov Authorization Act, referred to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, would formally authorize the establishment and maintenance of a website to help the public more easily access reports that have been generated by the independent work of Inspectors General.

On August 14, 2019, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson, who chaired the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, publicly released a Majority Staff Memo and all supporting documentation regarding an investigation into whether China hacked Hillary Clinton's non-government server.

The committee also conducted an investigation into potential conflicts of interest involving the Biden family. Chairman Grassley wrote a letter to the Department of Treasury on August 14, 2019, regarding potential conflicts of interest with respect to Obama administration policy relating to the Henniges transaction. During the Obama administration, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States approved a transaction that gave control over Henniges, an American maker of anti-vibration technologies with military applications, to a Chinese Government-owned aviation company and a China-based investment firm with established ties to the Chinese Government. One of the companies involved in the transaction is linked to Hunter Biden. Then, on November 6, 2019, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson wrote to the State Department regarding actual or apparent conflicts of interest between then-Vice President Biden and U.S. foreign policy toward Ukraine in light of Hunter Biden's position on the board of directors of a Ukrainian natural gas firm that was under investigation for corruption while then-Vice President Biden was the public face of the Obama administration's Ukraine policy. As part of the investigation, Chairman Grassley sent numerous requests for information to the Department of State and the National Archives, among other agencies, and conducted several transcribed interviews of relevant witnesses. The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee also served a subpoena for records on Blue Star Strategies, a consulting firm representing Burisma, which that committee authorized. On September 23, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson released a report on that investigation, titled "Hunter Biden, Burisma, and Corruption: The Impact on U.S. Government Policy and Related Concerns," summarizing its findings. On the same day, the minority issued a staff report, titled "Election Interference: Majority Investigation Amplifies Russian Attack on 2020 Election." On September 29, 2020, Chairman Grassley gave a floor speech disputing the minority's characterization of his oversight work. On November 18, 2020, Chairman Grassley and Chairman Johnson released a supplemental report based on additional information that came to light on this topic.

Housing

In 2019, Chairman Grassley requested information from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) about oversight of Federal spending by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) and delays in implementing reforms that HUD has pledged to implement. Over 3,300 PHAs across the country receive millions of dollars in the annual congressional appropriations process. These funds are appropriated to support housing for low-income households. Chairman Grassley raised concerns that many PHAs—including the country's largest—use a portion of those funds to cover "fees" for property management and other services to the housing projects they operate.

Immigration

During the 116th Congress, Chairman Grassley also continued his oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's implementation of the Nation's immigration laws. Chairman Grassley continued his oversight of F–1 visa fraud in 2020 by pressing DHS about the steps it is taking to crack down on fraudulent companies providing fake employment offers to foreign students seeking to extend their F–1 visas and remain in the U.S. after graduation.

Law Enforcement

In 2019, Chairman Grassley introduced the Protecting America's First Responders Act, referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would update the definition of disability to ensure that officers who are permanently unable to secure meaningful gainful employment following a catastrophic injury in the line of duty remain eligible for benefits. This bill cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee and also passed the full Senate. Grassley had previously sent a letter to Attorney General Barr raising concerns about this program.

Human Rights

In 2019, Chairman Grassley wrote to the World Bank to request a briefing on a $50-million loan provided to an organization associated with the forcible internment of Chinese Uighur Muslims, a population that has experienced grave human rights violations at the hands of the communist Chinese Government.

Whistleblower Protections

In 2019, Chairman Grassley sent a letter to DoD Secretary Mark Esper, urging action on DoD Office of Inspector General (OIG) recommendations regarding cases of whistleblower retaliation. Chairman Grassley also joined his colleagues, Chairman Johnson and Senator Mike Lee (R–Utah) in sending a letter to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, Michael Atkinson, to push for answers related to the intelligence community's decision to change requirements for whistleblowers seeking to report "urgent concerns" to Congress.

In 2019, Chairman Grassley also introduced the Whistleblower Programs Improvement Act of 2019, referred to the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. This legislation is a response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Digital Realty v. Somers,* in

which the Court ruled that a whistleblower who reports violations of the Nation's securities laws is protected from retaliation only when he or she discloses wrongdoing directly to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The bill makes clear that internal disclosures should be protected under the SEC program and strengthened other whistleblower protections for whistleblowers working in a variety of key sectors, including the securities and commodities industries and the Foreign Service.

In 2020, Chairman Grassley introduced the CFTC Fund Management Act, referred to the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee. This legislation includes important updates to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's highly successful whistleblower program, including an increase to the statutory cap for the fund used to pay whistleblower awards and new audit requirements designed to increase transparency.

To honor the critical role played by whistleblowers in promoting good governance and effective oversight, Chairman Grassley also introduced resolutions designating July 30, 2019, and July 30, 2020, as "National Whistleblower Appreciation Day." Both resolutions passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

FULL COMMITTEE HEARINGS

2019

June 5, 2019—"Foreign Threats to Taxpayer-Funded Research: Oversight Opportunities and Policy Solutions." Testimony was heard from Captain Michael Schmoyer, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Secretary for National Security and Director, Office of National Security, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD; Leslie W. Hollie, Chef of Investigative Operations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Louis A. Rodi III, Deputy Assistant Director, National Security Investigations Division, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC; and Joe W. Gray, Ph.D., Gordon Moore chair of biomedical engineering and associate director for biophysical oncology, Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR.

2020

June 2, 2020—"COVID–19 and Beyond: Oversight of the FDA's Foreign Drug Manufacturing Inspection Process." Testimony was heard from Mark Abdoo, Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Silver Spring, MD; Judith McMeekin, Pharm.D., Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Silver Spring, MD; Mary Denigan-Macauley, Ph.D., Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; Douglas C. Throckmorton, M.D., Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health

and Human Services, Silver Spring, MD; David Light, founder and CEO, Valisure, New Haven, CT; and Martin VanTrieste, president and CEO, CivicaRx, Inc., Lehi, UT.

July 28, 2020—"Part 1: Protecting the Reliability of the U.S. Medical Supply Chain During the COVID–19 Pandemic." Testimony was heard from Soraya Correa, Chief Procurement Officer, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC; Thomas F. Overacker, Executive Director, Cargo and Conveyance Security, Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC; and Steve Francis, Assistant Director, Global Trade Investigations Division, and Director, National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security,Washington, DC.

July 30, 2020—"Part 2: Protecting the Reliability of the U.S. Medical Supply Chain During the COVID–19 Pandemic." Testimony was heard from Cathy Denning, R.N., MSN, group senior vice president, Sourcing Operations, Analytics, and Center of Excellence, Vizient, Irving, TX; Robert J. Wiehe, senior vice president, chief supply chain and logistics officer, UC Health, Cincinnati, OH; Charles Johnson, president, International Safety Equipment Association, Arlington, VA; and Ernest Grant, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, president, American Nurses Association, Silver Spring, MD.

FULL COMMITTEE CLASSIFIED BRIEFING

June 5, 2019—"Foreign Threats to Taxpayer-Funded Research: Oversight Opportunities and Policy Solutions." Testimony was heard from Captain Michael Schmoyer, Ph.D., Assistant Deputy Secretary for National Security and Director, Office of National Security, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD; Leslie W. Hollie, Chef of Investigative Operations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC; and Louis A. Rodi III, Deputy Assistant Director, National Security Investigations Division, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

Nominations

Michael N. Nemelka, of Utah, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador, vice C.J. Mahoney.

May 4, 2020: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

July 21, 2020: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.

August 3, 2020: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

August 3, 2020: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

August 3, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 819. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

August 13, 2020: Considered by Senate.

August 13, 2020: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Christian N. Weiler, of Louisiana, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice Albert G. Lauber, term expiring.

November 19, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

July 21, 2020: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.

August 3, 2020: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

August 3, 2020: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

August 3, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 818. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

August 13, 2020: Considered by Senate.

August 13, 2020: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Alina I. Marshall, of Virginia, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice L. Paige Marvel, term expiring.

November 19, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

July 21, 2020: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.

August 3, 2020: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

August 3, 2020: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

August 3, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 817. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to re-

quests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
August 13, 2020: Considered by Senate.
August 13, 2020: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Sarah C. Arbes, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Matthew Bassett, resigned.
October 30, 2019: Received in the Senate.
October 30, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.
February 5, 2020: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
March 10, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Finance as requested by Senator Grassley.
March 11, 2020: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
March 11, 2020: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
March 11, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 595. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
March 21, 2020: Considered by Senate.
March 21, 2020: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Kipp Kranbuhl, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Matthew S. Rutherford, resigned.
October 15, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
February 5, 2020: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
March 11, 2020: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
March 11, 2020: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
March 11, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 594. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
January 3, 2021: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Amy Karpel, of Washington, to be a member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2023, vice Irving A. Williamson, term expired.
June 5, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
June 11, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
June 11, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
August 1, 2019: Considered by Senate.
August 1, 2019: Confirmed in Senate by voice vote.

Brent James McIntosh, of Michigan, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice David Malpass, resigned.

May 23, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
July 24, 2019: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
July 31, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
July 31, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
July 31, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 419. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
September 12, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
September 12, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
September 16, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate September 17, 2019.
September 17, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 54–40.
September 17, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 17, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate.
September 18, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 18, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 54–38.

Brian Callanan, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, vice Brent James McIntosh.
May 23, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
July 24, 2019: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
July 31, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
July 31, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
July 31, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 418. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
September 12, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
September 12, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
September 9, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.
September 16, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate September 17, 2019.
September 17, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 55–37.
September 17, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 18, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 18, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 55–39.

Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Andrew K. Maloney, resigned.
February 25, 2019: Received in the Senate.

February 25, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.
July 24, 2019: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
July 30, 2019: Referred to the Committee on Finance as requested by Senator Grassley.
July 31, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
July 31, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
July 31, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 417. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
September 18, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
September 18, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
September 18, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate September 19, 2019.
September 19, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 23, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 23, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 82–6.
September 23, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote September 24, 2019.
September 24, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 24, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 88–6. Record vote number: 298.

Emin Toro, of Virginia, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice Joseph Robert Goeke, term expired.
February 6, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
May 9, 2019: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
May 25, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
May 25, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
May 25, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 293. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
August 1, 2019: Considered by Senate.
August 1, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice John O. Colvin, retired.
February 6, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
March 26, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

March 26, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
March 26, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 158. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
August 1, 2019: Considered by Senate.
August 1, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Mark Van Dyke Holmes, of New York, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years (reappointment).
February 6, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
January 3, 2020: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Mark Van Dyke Holmes, of New York, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years (reappointment).
December 10, 2020: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
January 3, 2021: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Travis Greaves, of the District of Columbia, to be a judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice Juan F. Vasquez, term expired.
February 6, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
July 24, 2019: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
July 31, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
July 31, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
July 31, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 416. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
February 13, 2020: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
February 13, 2020: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
February 13, 2020: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.
February 24, 2020: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote February 25, 2020.
February 25, 2020: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 91–5.
February 25, 2020: Considered by Senate.
February 25, 2020: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote February 27, 2020.
February 27, 2020: Considered by Senate.
February 27, 2020: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 85–3.

Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of 5 years, vice W. Thomas Reeder, Jr., resigned.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred jointly to the Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions pursuant to section 411(c) of Pub. L. 109–280.

March 26, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

March 26, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

April 9, 2019: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported favorably.

April 9, 2019: Reported by Senator Alexander, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without printed report.

April 9, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 214. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

April 11, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.

April 11, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.

April 11, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.

April 30, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 72–27.

April 30, 2019: Considered by Senate.

April 30, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate April 30, 2019.

April 30, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 72–27.

Randolph J. Stayin, of Virginia, to be a member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2026, vice Meredith M. Broadbent, term expired.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

June 11, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

June 11, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

June 11, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 296. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

August 1, 2019: Considered by Senate.

August 1, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2025 (reappointment).

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

March 26, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

March 26, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

March 26, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 157. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
May 23, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
May 23, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
May 23, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.
June 3, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 74–17.
June 3, 2019: Considered by Senate.
June 3, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote June 4, 2019.
June 4, 2019: Considered by Senate.
June 4, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 77–16.

Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, vice Michael J. Astrue, resigned.
January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
January 3, 2020: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Paul Piquado, resigned.
January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
February 5, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
February 5, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
February 5, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 8.
April 1, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
April 1, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
April 2, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate April 2, 2019.
April 3, 2019: Considered by Senate.
April 3, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 95–3.
April 3, 2019: Point of order by Senator McConnell that the post-cloture time under Rule XXII for all executive branch nominations other than a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, U.S.C. is 2 hours in Senate.
April 3, 2019: Ruling of the chair that the point of order raised by Senator McConnell with respect to the post-cloture time under Rule XXII was not sustained.
April 3, 2019: Motion by Senator McConnell to appeal the ruling of the chair agreed to, the question being, "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the Senate?"; determined by Yea–Nay vote, 48–51.

April 3, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Amy Karpel, of Washington, to be a member of the United States International Trade Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 16, 2020, vice F. Scott Kieff, resigned.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

June 5, 2019: Received message of withdrawal of nomination from the President.

Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Karen Dynan.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

February 5, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

February 5, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

February 5, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 7.

August 1, 2019: Considered by Senate.

August 1, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by voice vote.

Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, vice William J. Wilkins.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

February 5, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

February 5, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 6.

February 14, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination in Senate by voice vote.

February 14, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.

February 14, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.

February 26, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 84–15.

February 26, 2019: Considered by Senate.

February 26, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote February 27, 2019.

February 27, 2019: Considered by Senate.

February 27, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 83–15.

Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Rafael J. Lopez.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate.

January 16, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

February 4, 2019: Referred to the Committee on Finance as requested by Senator Grassley.

February 5, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
February 5, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
February 5, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 5.
August 1, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
August 1, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
August 1, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.
September 9, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote September 10, 2019.
September 10, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 57–37.
September 10, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 10, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 57–37.

David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025 (reappointment).
January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
May 9, 2019: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.
May 23, 2019: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.
May 23, 2019: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.
May 23, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 292. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.
September 19, 2019: Motion to proceed to executive session to consideration of nomination agreed to in Senate by voice vote.
September 19, 2019: Cloture motion presented in Senate.
September 19, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, mandatory quorum required under Rule XXII waived.
September 23, 2019: By unanimous consent agreement, debate and vote September 24, 2019.
September 24, 2019: Cloture invoked in Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 66–25. Record vote number: 297.
September 24, 2019: Considered by Senate.
September 24, 2019: Confirmed by the Senate by Yea–Nay vote, 68–26. Record vote number: 301.

David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, vice Carolyn W. Colvin, term expired.
January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.
January 3, 2020: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Jason J. Fichtner, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2024, vice Lanhee J. Chen, term expired.

January 16, 2020: Received in the Senate.

January 16, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

February 5, 2020: Committee on Finance. Hearings held.

March 10, 2020: Referred to the Committee on Finance as requested by Senator Grassley.

March 11, 2020: Committee on Finance. Ordered to be reported favorably.

March 11, 2020: Reported by Senator Grassley, Committee on Finance, without printed report.

March 11, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar. Calendar No. 593. Subject to nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

Geoffrey William Seiji Okamoto, of California, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Ramin Toloui.

January 9, 2019: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

January 3, 2020: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

William G. Dauster, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Robert D. Reischauer, term expired.

February 12, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

William G. Dauster, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Robert D. Reischauer, term expired.

February 12, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

William G. Dauster, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Robert D. Reischauer, term expired.

February 12, 2020: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Charles P. Blahous III, term expired.

January 16, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Charles P. Blahous III, term expired.

January 16, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of 4 years, vice Charles P. Blahous III, term expired.

January 16, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

Michael J. Astrue, of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2022, vice Alan L. Cohen, term expired.

January 16, 2019: Received in the Senate.

January 16, 2019: Placed on Senate Executive Calendar in the Privileged Nominations section with nominee information requested by the Committee on Finance, pursuant to S. Res. 116, 112th Congress.

September 9, 2019: Received message of withdrawal of nomination from the President.

William Patrick Joseph Kimmitt, of Virginia, to be a member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2029, vice F. Scott Kieff, term expired.

December 2, 2020: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Finance.

January 3, 2021: Returned to the President under the provisions of Senate Rule XXXI, paragraph 6 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE

There were 918 Senate bills and 12 House bills referred to the committee for consideration during the 116th Congress. In addition, 12 Senate and House resolutions (joint, concurrent, or simple resolutions) were referred to the committee.

REPORTS, PRINTS, AND STUDIES

During the 116th Congress, the committee and supporting joint committees prepared and issued 6 reports, special prints, and studies on the following topics:

Title	Document no.	To accompany
United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act.	116–283	H.R. 5430
The Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019.	116–120	S. 2543
Insulin: Examining the Factors Driving the Rising Cost of a Century Old Drug.	116–51	.....
Syndicated Conservation-Easement Transactions ..	116–44	.....
Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance of the United States Senate During the 115th Congress.	116–19	.....
Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Finance ...	116–2	.....

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

During the 116th Congress, a total of 472 official communications were submitted to the committee. Of these, 4 were Presidential Messages; 420 were Executive Communications—these communications include reports to advise and inform the Congress, required annual or semi-annual agency budget and activities summaries, and requests for legislative action. The committee also received 48 Petitions and Memorials.

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