



Senate Approves Rep. Tom Price for Department of Health and Human Services Secretary on Party Lines, 52-47

In the early morning of Feb. 10, the Senate approved Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) to be the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by a party line vote of 52-47 (with one Senator, Claire McCaskill (D-MO), not voting).

During the nearly 30-hour debate that preceded the vote, a number of Republican Senators voiced their strong support for Rep. Price, describing him as a healthcare leader in the House of Representatives and highlighting his roles in Congress as the Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee. Several Republican members also emphasized his experience as an orthopedic surgeon. For example, Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY) at one point during the debate asked: “Who better than a doctor to head an organization” that oversees the majority of the country’s healthcare programs?

In contrast, Democrats expressed opposition to Rep. Price’s nomination. During the debate leading up to the vote, Democrats reiterated their concerns about Rep. Price’s stock holdings in certain healthcare companies and his views regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid and Medicare.

Secretary Price was sworn in on Feb. 10. He now steps into the role as President Donald Trump’s lead at HHS, including an anticipated focus on ACA repeal, replace and repair efforts, as well as potential efforts to address the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Secretary is expected to take swift administrative action relating to the ACA in particular, although the precise contours of the regulatory changes he may pursue remain to be seen.

If you have any questions regarding this Sidley Update, please contact the Sidley lawyer with whom you usually work or

Stephanie P. Hales
Partner
shales@sidley.com
+1 202 736 8349

Dora Hughes, M.D., M.P.H.
Senior Policy Advisor
dhughes@sidley.com
+1 202 736 8653

Laura R. Cohen
Policy Attorney
laura.cohen@sidley.com
+1 202 736 8127

Meghan F. Weinberg
Associate
mweinberg@sidley.com
+1 202 736 8129

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