



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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CHN SAYS MOVE TO CONFIRM TOM PRICE ‘NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST,’ CALLS ON FULL SENATE TO WITHHOLD SUPPORT

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, issued the following statement Wednesday in response to the Senate Finance Committee’s vote to advance the nomination of Rep. Tom Price for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services:

“The rush to advance Tom Price’s nomination for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services is not in the public interest. As Chair of the House Budget Committee and in his active role within the Republican Study Committee, Rep. Price has put forward budgets that would massively shift resources to the wealthy and to corporations and away from low- and moderate-income people, including children and youth, those who are sick, have disabilities, or need help to find and keep jobs.

“He has supported a Medicaid block grant that would cut Medicaid by one-third over a decade. His proposals to replace the Affordable Care Act would require people with low to moderate incomes to pay more for their insurance – in some cases, making that coverage unaffordable or inadequate. He opposes allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices and would allow physicians in the Medicare program to negotiate private deals with patients, both of which tilt the system towards more funding for the health care industry and higher costs for patients.

“His FY 2016 budget proposal would have cut domestic appropriations by 16 percent in 2026, on top of years of previous cuts. Child welfare, home heating assistance, child care, public health and other services within HHS would all be less able to meet need if such harsh cuts were implemented. There are unanswered questions about the accuracy of his statements to the Committee about his stock transactions, and his apparent [violation of House ethics rules](#) by offering amendments that could affect the value of stocks he had recently acquired. The full Senate should oppose Rep. Price’s nomination.”

The Coalition on Human Needs previously notified of the Senate Finance Committee of its [opposition to the Price nomination](#).

The Coalition on Human Needs is made up of more than 100 national organizations including faith groups, service providers, policy experts, labor, civil rights and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable people.