

**NOMINATION OF MS. SHALANDA D.  
YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DEP-  
UTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGE-  
MENT AND BUDGET**

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**HEARING**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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**March 2, 2021—HEARING ON THE NOMINATION OF MS. SHALANDA D.  
YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

**March 10, 2021—EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER THE  
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# CONTENTS

## HEARING

	Page
March 2, 2021—Hearing on the Nomination of Ms. Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, To Be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) .....	1

## OPENING STATEMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Bernard Sanders .....	1
Ranking Member Lindsey Graham .....	2

## WITNESSES

Testimony of Ms. Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, To Be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget .....	4
Prepared Statement of .....	30
Statement of the Honorable Patrick Leahy, A U.S. Senator from the State of Vermont .....	3

## MATERIALS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

Statement of Biographical and Financial Information Requested of Presidential Nominee Ms. Shalanda D. Young To Be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget .....	32
Pre-Hearing Questions from Chairman Bernard Sanders with Answers by Shalanda D. Young .....	41
Pre-Hearing Questions from Ranking Lindsey Graham with Answers by Shalanda D. Young .....	43
Post-Hearing Questions from Budget Committee Members with Answers by Shalanda D. Young: .....	48
Senator John Kennedy .....	48
Senator Ron Wyden .....	50
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse .....	52
Senator Jeff Merkley .....	56

## EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING

March 10, 2021—Executive Business Meeting To Consider the Nomination of Ms. Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, To Be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget .....	57
Committee Votes .....	58



**THE NOMINATION OF MS. SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021**

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:00 a.m., in Room SD-608, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Honorable Bernard Sanders, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Sanders, Murray, Wyden, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Warner, Merkley, Kaine, Van Hollen, Luján, Padilla, Graham, Grassley, Crapo, Toomey, Braun, Scott, Sasse, and Kennedy.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN BERNARD SANDERS**

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. Let me convene this hearing, the purpose of which is to speak with Ms. Shalanda Young, who has been nominated by the President to be Deputy OMB Director. And let me thank my colleague who are here with us in person. I know Chuck Grassley is in back, and others will be coming. Senator Graham is a little bit late but he will be here shortly. And we thank those who are participating remotely.

We are here today to consider the nomination of Shalanda Young to become the next Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. As we all know, the OMB is responsible for preparing the President's budget, reviewing Federal regulations, and providing the proper oversight of Federal agencies. It is a very important task.

For the past 14 years, Ms. Young has served as a top staffer on the House Appropriations Committee and has done an excellent job in working with Democrats and Republicans on legislation that must be passed each and every year that impacts the lives of tens of millions, and we thank her very much for her years of public service.

Today, in America, it is no great secret that we are living through one of the most difficult periods in the modern history of our country. We have a terrible crisis with the pandemic, where we have lost half a million Americans, and we are also living through a terrible economic downturn. The real unemployment rate in America today is over 11 percent. Over 23 million Americans are either unemployed, underemployed, or have given up looking for work. More than half of the workers in our country today, unbeliev-

ably, in the richest country on earth, are living paycheck to paycheck. That means if your car breaks down, your kid gets sick, you are facing a terrible financial emergency.

We have the highest rate of childhood poverty of nearly any major country on earth, and we hope, by the way, to address that through the American Rescue Plan Act that we will be discussing this week on the floor of the Senate. And in the midst of all that, we have a massive level of income and wealth inequality, which this Committee actually will be discussing in the near future.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still raging across the country and is responsible for taking the lives of some 514,000 Americans. At the same time, unbelievably, we have 90 million Americans who are either uninsured or underinsured. In other words, we have a major health care crisis and are the only major country on earth not to guarantee health care to all people, as a human right.

We have, in the midst of all of this, not just an American but a global climate crisis that threatens the well-being of the planet. We have an affordable housing crisis, where millions of people are paying half of their limited incomes on rent. Half a million people are sleeping out on the streets.

We have a racial injustice crisis, and we will accelerate our effort to fight systemic racism. We have an immigration crisis that must be addressed. It has been ignored for too long.

In other words, this country today faces an unprecedented set of crises that must be addressed. And guess what? A lot of those priorities, a lot of those issues are going to fall within the purview of OMB, including the Director of the OMB.

Ms. Young, I look forward to working with you as the Deputy OMB Director, to enact the promises that the Biden administration has made to the American people, and that is to increase the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour; to make public colleges and universities tuition-free for working families, and to substantially reduce student debt; to lower the Medicare eligibility age, and to substantially lower prescription drugs costs in this country; to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and create millions of good-paying jobs and combat climate change; to make pre-K universal for every 3- and 4-year-old in America, and make child care affordable to every family in this country; to make sure that every worker in America has at least 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave; and, in fact, in the midst of massive income and wealth inequality, to make sure that the wealthiest people and the most profitable corporations start to pay their fair share of taxes.

Those are not my ideas. That is what the Biden administration has been talking about. And the job of OMB and the Deputy Director of the OMB, to my mind, is to make sure that we keep faith with the American people, that we implement what the President has been talking about.

So let me thank Ms. Young for being with us. I look forward to your testimony, and now let me give the microphone over to Ranking Member Lindsey Graham for his opening statement.

#### **OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM**

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you are a highly qualified person for the job. Everybody that deals with you



on our side has nothing but good things to say. You might talk me out of voting for you, but I doubt it. Thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Mr. Graham, for that cogent and brief remark.

My colleague from Vermont, Senator Leahy, wants to introduce Ms. Young. Can we roll the film, so to speak.

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PATRICK LEAHY, A U.S.  
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT**

Senator LEAHY. I am very happy to be here today to introduce Shalanda Young. She is President Biden's nominee to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Now, for the members of this Committee who also sit on the Appropriations Committee, Shalanda is a familiar face. She has worked on the House Appropriations Committee for nearly 16 years. She has been the House Appropriations Staff Director since 2017.

Actually, it is in that capacity I had the pleasure to really get to know her well, and I can tell you, without reservation, I can think of no one better suited to be Deputy Director of OMB than Shalanda. Her deep understanding of the often arcane Federal budget process, her years of experience on the Appropriations Committee, her tenacity, her dedication to public service, her honesty will serve the agency and the American people.

Shalanda began her career in public service in 2001, at the National Institutes of Health. She came first to work on Capitol Hill as a detailee with the House Appropriation Committee in 2005. She really made a good impression because she returned in 2007.

She worked her way up in the committee over the years. Her work in developing the budget and conducted oversight of key agencies has given her critical insights into the operation of some of our nation's most important agencies, including, of course, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, the General Service Administration. She even served as a staff director for the Legislative Branch Subcommittee overseeing the budget for Congress.

Then she became Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee in 2017. Coincidentally, that was the same year I became Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. And since that time she has helped the House navigate some of the most difficult issues before the chamber. She has a reputation as a tough, but fair negotiator. That is high praise on Capitol Hill, and I can attest to the truth of these statements. I have seen these skills first-hand.

Let me tell you a story. Shalanda was a critical figure in helping to end the government shutdown in January of 2019. Now I remember the evening we cut the final deal to end the 35-day government shutdown, the longest shutdown in U.S. history. Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Kay Granger, and I, along with only a very few but highly trusted staff, went to my office in the Capitol. We continued talks that started earlier that day. We wanted to get away from being watched by everybody, from the lobbyists, to the press, away from the cameras. We wanted to see if we could reach a deal.

Fortunately, Shalanda was with us. As we worked into the night on these difficult issues, her knowledge of a vast range of Federal programs, her understanding of the political process, and her determination to get the country we love back on track helped us reach a deal.

We shook hands on it that night, and we went out, the four of us—two Republicans, two Democrats—and we announced it to the press. If you look closely at pictures of that moment, Shalanda is there in the background. Hopefully she is as proud of that moment as I am.

It was a difficult time for our nation, but through determination and hard work we reached a solution, and that is what Shalanda is best at. She knows how to work across the aisle to get a deal done. Her relationships with both Democrats and Republicans in the House and the Senate will serve her well.

I have heard it said that the Office of Management and Budget is one of the most powerful government agencies, that most Americans have never heard of. It is true. It wields incredible influence over not just the Federal budget but over policies that affect people's lives. We need people like Shalanda Young to help steer the agency in these important decisions. She is wonderful.

Chairman SANDERS. Senator Leahy, thank you very much. And now, under the rules of the Committee, nominees are required to testify under oath. Ms. Young, would you please rise. Please raise your right hand.

Do you swear the testimony that you will give the Senate Budget Committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Ms. YOUNG. I do.

Chairman SANDERS. If asked to do so, and if given reasonable notice, will you agree to appear before this Committee in the future and answer any questions that the members of this Committee might have?

Ms. YOUNG. I do.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much. Please be seated, and we would love to hear your remarks.

**TESTIMONY OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

Ms. YOUNG. Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as President Biden's nominee for Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I want to thank Chairman Leahy for introducing me to the Committee today.

One of the joys of being Staff Director of the Appropriations Committee has been seeing the amazing relationships and results that have come from Senator Leahy, Senator Shelby, Ranking Member Granger, and my former boss, Chairwoman Lowey. I still vividly remember the same story that you just heard from Chairman Leahy, those four meeting to avert another government shutdown. We had just opened for 3 weeks and we needed to find a deal quickly, back in February of 2019. Even in those tense moments, Senator Leahy still took the time to show me pictures of his be-

loved family before announcing to the press that a compromise had been reached. I will be forever grateful for the kindness Senator Leahy has always shown, even in the most stressful environments.

I am accompanied today by my parents, Loyce and Ronald Smith, who are here from Louisiana. My 92-year-old grandmother, who is still in Louisiana, could not make it due to COVID-19 precautions. I want to thank them and my extended family for their unwavering support over the years.

Members of this distinguished Committee, I come before you today as someone who grew up in rural America. I spent most of my youth in Clinton, Louisiana. Back then, Clinton had a population of around 2,000 people. It is where my maternal great-grandparents lived, got married, and had my grandmother in 1928. Somehow, even then, in the segregated South, my great-grandparents sent their child, my grandmother, to college. I am grateful they prioritized education, a commitment that has stayed in my family for generations.

All families deserve to see their children have that same opportunity to pursue their potential. Another former boss of mine, Chairman Obey—and I am sorry if he ever yelled at you—used to say a budget is your values. I share that belief, and firmly believe the Federal budget can and should help make the promise of this country real for all families, in all communities.

I have spent the last 4 years as both the Minority and Majority Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee. I care deeply about the institution of Congress and have been very proud to serve in a position that required compromise to ensure the American people had not only a functioning government, but one that invested in their future.

My work on the Appropriations Committee taught me that both sides can compromise without compromising their values, even when that means no one gets everything they want. I will forever be indebted to this institution, and if confirmed, I look forward to using my experience in the halls of Congress to ensure both branches operate with mutual respect and work toward solutions that will improve the lives of those we all serve.

I am not naive about the challenges we face. Last year, I worked on the first COVID supplemental that Congress passed in March of 2020. We were using models of past supplementals on Ebola and Zika because the full scale of the pandemic was still unclear. With COVID deaths surpassing 500,000, our focus must remain on beating the virus, delivering immediate relief to millions of struggling Americans, and ensuring that we emerge from this crisis even stronger than we were before. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with Members of Congress from both parties on this and other important work.

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and other members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to appear before this Committee, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Young appears on page 30]

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Ms. Young.

Let me begin the questioning, and, in a sense, the questions I am going to ask you do not come from me, really. They come from the President, and I just wanted to make sure that you are on the same page as the President in terms of some of the most important issues facing our country. So I am going to ask you the questions and your answers can be very, very brief.

The President has indicated strong support for increasing the minimum wage in our country from \$7.25 an hour to \$15.00 an hour. Do you agree with him?

Ms. YOUNG. Absolutely, Chairman Sanders.

Chairman SANDERS. The President has made clear that he wants to see public colleges and universities tuition free and canceling student debt, not completely, but making progress in canceling student debt for working families making less than \$125,000 a year. Do you agree with that?

Ms. YOUNG. Yes, Senator Sanders.

Chairman SANDERS. The President has indicated that he wants to lower the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 60 and expand Medicare coverage to include hearing, vision, and dental care. Is that something you support?

Ms. YOUNG. Yes, Senator Sanders.

Chairman SANDERS. Good. The President has indicated that he wants to see Medicare begin negotiating prices with the pharmaceutical industry to lower the outrageously high cost of prescription drugs in America. Is that something you support?

Ms. YOUNG. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. The President has indicated that he supports guaranteeing 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave. Is that something you support?

Ms. YOUNG. Absolutely.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. The President has indicated that he supports providing universal pre-K education to every 3- and 4-year-old in the country and making child care more affordable for working families. Is that something you are comfortable with?

Ms. YOUNG. I have seen it work in my own family. Yes, sir.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. The President has indicated, and we will be discussing more of that in the next several months, creating millions of good-paying jobs by investing at least \$2 trillion to combat climate change and transform our energy system away from fossil fuels into renewable energy. Is that something you are comfortable with?

Ms. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Chairman SANDERS. The President has indicated that he supports creating millions of additional good-paying jobs by rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, our roads, bridges, sidewalks, schools, water systems, wastewater plants, et cetera. Is that something that you are comfortable with?

Ms. YOUNG. Yes, sir, and I have worked on it a lot of my appropriations career.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. Those are my questions, Ms. Young. Thank you very much.

Senator Graham?

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you. What is the price tag of all that?

Chairman SANDERS. Uh—

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Graham, as you know a lot of these do have high price tags.

Senator GRAHAM. Oh, just within a trillion or so, what is it?

Ms. YOUNG. It is some very important, you know—

Senator GRAHAM. You know I am going to vote for you, but I just—

Ms. YOUNG. I get it. It is expensive.

Senator GRAHAM. But I just want, like, people back home to know, okay, all that sounds good but, I mean, what does it cost?

Ms. YOUNG. It sounds good, but I think you have to talk about the details. So when we talk about the global cost if—

Senator GRAHAM. Is it fair to say you cannot give me a price tag today but you will work on it and get me one later?

Ms. YOUNG. I will work on it—

Senator GRAHAM. And give me one later?

Ms. YOUNG. —there are some details, I think there are some bipartisan nuggets in those infrastructure packages and others, I am sure we will get the opportunity to work on together.

Senator GRAHAM. Are you worried about a run on our border, southern border, if we keep changing the policies of immigration?

Ms. YOUNG. You can imagine I have spent a lot of time on this the last 4 years, and I have spent some time down in Southern California and Texas.

Senator GRAHAM. Yeah.

Ms. YOUNG. You visit one part of the border, you have not visited another part. It is all very different, the topography. So, yeah, I believe—

Senator GRAHAM. Well, let's just talk about policy. Forget about topography here. The Remain in Mexico policy of the Trump administration required people seeking asylum in the United States to stay in Mexico until their court date. Do you think that was a beneficial change?

Ms. YOUNG. I think there were some side effects that were not—I think of us as a country, including lack of access to counsel. Frankly, that if you are interested—

Senator GRAHAM. Well, we are talking about waiting there until your court date. I mean, there are a million and a half, over a million person backlog in the asylum system. Are you concerned that if we go back to the old policy allowing people to be processed in the United States, released in the United States for a court date years in the future, most do not show up, that that will entice more people to come here to seek asylum?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Graham, I think the speed in which our immigration system works is a bipartisan one. No one wants an asylum system that takes years and years and years. I think one of the unfortunate side effects of Remain in Mexico is you do take—

Senator GRAHAM. Do you support changing that policy, eliminating it?

Ms. YOUNG. Yeah, I do think we need to, and think as the administration is taking a pause and looking to make sure we have an immigration system that works.

Senator GRAHAM. They are expecting to be 13,000 unaccompanied minors to hit our border in May. Why do you think the increase?

Ms. YOUNG. You know, I have not seen the figures you are using. I think you are well-known as someone who has reached across the aisle for solutions. The only way we are going to find any solutions in immigration is a bipartisan one. So yeah, I am concerned, but I do think there are solutions.

Senator GRAHAM. Let me just, you know, again, you are highly qualified for the job and I am going to vote for you. But, you know, Senator Sanders gave sort of a laundry list of things that you need to support, that the Biden administration is proposing. Maybe we can find common ground. Maybe we cannot. But I worked on about every gang bill there is around here for immigration, and what I see is a retreat on policies that worked. I was in Arizona a couple of weeks ago, and this time this year versus last year there has been almost a 100 percent increase in people coming to our border.

So for us to get immigration right we are going to have to turn off the magnets that draw people here and try to replace illegal immigration with legal immigration. Do you support more work visas, legal work visas for the American economy?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Graham, there are several work visa program. I am no expert on them but I do know there are reforms in the works in the halls of Congress. There are some that need more reform than others. So yes, I do think the visa programs are necessary, but I do support congressional work on necessary reforms where they are needed, and I know a lot of that work is ongoing.

Senator GRAHAM. Do you think you are ready to be Director if that job was offered to you?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Graham, thank you for the question. I am here nominated as Deputy Director. I hope, after today, you find me qualified for that position, and I look forward to hopefully winning your support.

Senator GRAHAM. Well, you will get my support, maybe for both jobs. Who knows. Thanks.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Graham. Now we are going to hear from Senator Murray via video.

Senator MURRAY. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, and before I begin I do want to reiterate my support for Neera Tanden's nomination to be OMB Director. I have known and worked closely with Neera for many years. So whether you agree with her on every issue or not, you cannot question her passion, her knowledge, her engagement on the issues so critical to families in our communities. I believe Ms. Tanden would excel and be director. I hope the Committee, and really the full Senate, will swiftly move to advance her nomination.

Today I am very pleased we have the opportunity to speak today with Shalanda Young, who I believe is an excellent choice for this role. Ms. Young will bring a wealth of experience to the job. She has a deep understanding of the Federal budget and the appropriations process, and the know-how of working with agencies and Members of Congress to make progress on a range of critical issues.

As our country faces multiple crises, the role of OMB is critical to addressing these challenges head on, from navigating the current public health crisis, to stabilizing our economy, to confronting

the climate crisis, to addressing the rampant inequality throughout our society.

So, Ms. Young, my question for you today is how do you see this administration prioritizing investments to tackle those crises, and what is the economic case for strong and decisive actions to meet this moment?

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, Senator Murray, and it is good to see you. I have certainly been a fan from the other side of the Appropriations Committee in the House. I think you all will be busy working on the first order of business this week. If we do not take full steps to crush the virus, the economics of it are going to come home tenfold. President Biden has certainly talked about the next step being the need to invest in infrastructure. During the regular appropriations process we do the best we can, especially with budget caps, but the types of investments that are needed to ensure that this country remains an economic leader and competes with the Chinas of the world, we have to invest in our roads, bridges—I am sorry Senator Graham is gone—our dredging projects. Army Corps is woefully in need of additional funding, if we want our shipping lanes to remain open.

So I certainly, if confirmed, look forward to working with Congress on those big investments, because if we go too little, if we do not do what is needed now, and I worked on the Great Recession package, and one of the complaints was, in 2009, it was not big enough. So you certainly have my commitment to work with Congress, I think on many pieces that have been bipartisan in the past, to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

Senator MURRAY. Well, thank you very much. You know, from the beginning of this pandemic I said historic crises like these demand bold solutions. It is so important the Senate continues to move quickly this week to pass COVID relief and get direct relief to all those who are struggling, and to start our country on a path to more equitable future on the other side of this pandemic.

Before I close I do want to again raise an issue of critical importance to Washington State, and that is the cleanup of the Hanford nuclear site. I talked about this previously with Ms. Tanden. I look forward to also working in close partnership with you to make sure the Hanford mission is on a cost-effective trajectory without compromising cleanup, and I look forward to talking with you about that once you are confirmed.

And finally, Ms. Young, I do want to thank you for your willingness to serve in this position at such a critical time in this country. I look forward to supporting this nomination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time this morning.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Murray. Senator Grassley.

Senator GRASSLEY. There are not many people on the professional staff of the Appropriations Committee who are anxious to get away, so I question your judgment, but I am glad for your public service.

It happens that I am more interested in OMB from the standpoint of what it does on regulatory review than what I do in regard to the budget part of your work. So I am going to start out there, and I only have one question in that area. The president memo en-

titled, quote/unquote, “Modernizing Regulatory Review” directs OMB to update its guidance to agencies to, quote, “fully account for regulatory benefits that are difficult or impossible to quantify.”

Under the implementation of this memo, how will agencies be instructed to compare quantitative and non-quantitative benefits and costs, and how does that differ from the current cost benefit analysis framework?

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, Senator. I thought you might talk about this. I want to reiterate something you heard from the nominee for the Director job, that the underlying Executive Order 12866 has been reaffirmed by President Biden, and that has served both Republican and Democratic administrations, and it says we must do cost benefit analysis of regulations.

What the improving and modernizing plan you have outlined, which I certainly hope to have a role as Deputy of looking at the regulatory process, is an effort to ensure that we are reaching communities. I talked about one that I grew up in. Oftentimes it is hard to quantify when you are looking at towns of 2,000, whether the benefit outweighs a small group of people. There might be high costs, but that does not mean we should not be doing something to make those rural lives, the lives of people who might be from minority racial backgrounds, those people living with disabilities, those things may not come out well in a regular cost benefit analysis, but I think we can all agree that we need to ensure that those amongst us who need the most help, we find a way. And I think that memo that you talked about is tasking us with finding a way to make sure we do not leave certain Americans behind.

Senator GRASSLEY. Okay. Thank you. Another thing that bothers me over several decades is the fact that the Department of Defense (DOD) is the only department of government that can't get a, what you call kind of a certified statement of fiscal responsibility, a clean audit I guess you would call it. The Department of Defense relies on hundreds of outdated legacy financial management systems. These systems cannot produce reliable data and are one major obstacle to preventing the DOD from obtaining what I said, a clean audit opinion.

How would you approach this issue through the authority of the OMB, assuming you have authority, and I am not sure that I am up to date on that, and ensure that these systems are replaced or fixed so that they are able to generate complete and reliable financial data needed to support clean opinions?

Ms. YOUNG. As you can imagine, I have certainly looked at this from the appropriations angle, and, by the way, it was a difficult decision leaving someplace I have been and loved for a long time, so thanks for acknowledging that but hopefully I can continue to be in service, if confirmed.

I think part of the issue, DOD is not the only one that has legacy systems that do not serve them well when it comes to managing their financial house. Part of the problem is a resource problem. We often, the choice, when it comes to Congress, and, you know, OMB as well, look at the traditional spending of DOD. So do you need a new submarine or do you need an IT system? Well, we probably need both, but it tends to not be the jazziest thing that can be sold in the halls of Congress.



So you certainly have my commitment to work with you, and I certainly will work with the Pentagon, because this is, I think the least we owe the American people, to ensure that we can show that these agencies have clean financial audits.

Senator GRASSLEY. Okay. I have only got eight seconds left. For decades, tax regulation generally skipped the review process other agencies had to follow in submitting significant regulations to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at OMB for review. This changed in 2018, when the Treasury Department and OMB entered into an agreement to subject significant tax regulations to OIRA review. Do you expect the Biden administration to maintain that agreement?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I expect we will use this improving and modernizing memo to review, and that will be one of the things, and I would love to work with your staff on this issue and make sure we are getting your concerns as we are looking at this review process.

Senator GRASSLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator. Senator Wyden.

Senator WYDEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and for holding this important hearing.

I just want to touch, for a quick moment, on the matter of Neera Tanden's nomination, because I think colleagues should know that she is very much interested in two bipartisan priorities of a number of members. For example, Senator Grassley and I put together a bill to stop pharmaceutical price gouging, and we basically said if these companies are selling things like insulin and they are jacking up the prices again and again and again, which they have, they basically have to make rebates if they ever raise prices above inflation, bipartisan support. We also support the effort that Chairman Sanders is talking about here today, which is Medicare negotiating the cost of prescription drugs.

So these are bipartisan issues. The same has been true in terms of rural America, and I asked Ms. Tanden about a matter that I am pursuing with Senator Crapo and Senator Risch, trying to help the rural communities get off the roller coaster with respect to their payments, and we continue to strengthen the Secure Rural Schools Program.

So Ms. Tanden, as members consider her nomination, on prescription drugs and on the question of jobs for rural America, has a bipartisan track record.

I would also like to say that I am very much looking forward to supporting Ms. Young for this crucial position as well, and I want to ask her about just a couple of quick questions. I think we all know that millions of Americans are unemployed right now. Unemployment insurance expires March 14th. And dollar for dollar, there really are not multipliers out there like helping people who are laid off through no fault of their own, because those funds that they get are used for making rent and buying groceries and paying for medicine, and kids' shoes. And there has been a major limitation is that politicians can set an arbitrary end date for the coverage that folks and communities need to stay afloat.

I have recently proposed, again, with the support of Chairman Sanders and a number of other colleagues in the Senate, to basi-

cally tie this assistance to economic conditions on the ground, and the unemployment and relief checks should basically be part of a stabilizer kind of system so that we do not get into another situation like we had in the last big recession, where we simply had gone too small. We ought to put these programs on approach tied to economic conditions on the ground what is called an automatic stabilizer, and I am very pleased to be working on this with Chairman Sanders and a number of colleagues.

Ms. Young, we have been impressed by the fact that President Biden is very interested in this idea. Should you be confirmed for this position, tell us a little bit about your thoughts, and we would very much like to have a ringing endorsement today as well.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Wyden, thank you for the question. So even though I have been on the Appropriations Committee, we have had the privilege of putting these packages together so I am absolutely familiar with the stabilizer idea. I know a lot of Senators and House members have tried to bring this to fruition. I am certainly supportive. I think we are about to hit another cliff on March 14th, you know, which is unfortunate, and I think last time we did not make the time frame, so we have people who have to deal with these gaps in assistance, which should be avoided.

I also understand, from the congressional standpoint, some of the hurdles to tackling the stabilizer issue has been Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring. It is tough. The way scoring does has just made it an expensive proposition. But I think it is important enough, we have to keep working to find a way to make sure millions of Americans do not face these artificial cliffs in their unemployment benefits.

Senator WYDEN. Well, thank you, Ms. Young. I have got one other question, but, you know, what you are really touching on is the heart of what we want to do. We want to empower communities and we want to empower folks who have been laid off, through no fault of their own, to be in a position to get on with their lives. Let's empower them rather than politicians, who are the ones who, in effect, if they can set an arbitrary date, they are the ones who use those dates for leverage. We ought to be empowering people.

Let me ask you about one last issue, very quickly, that is important to tribes in my State. OMB currently faces a decision on the poorly made recommendations of the Public Buildings Reform Board to close National Archives and Records in Seattle, Washington. This decision affect Oregonians, including our Klamath Tribes who rely on their access to important historical records. We sent a bipartisan letter to OMB detailing our concerns about how Native Americans and Alaskan Natives in the Northwest were not consulted. Do you commit to working with all of us to increase transparency of the process, get more input, and particularly consult with the tribes before any final recommendations are instituted?

Ms. YOUNG. Absolutely, Senator. I have been involved in many decisions and fighting those from the congressional side when offices close. I understand the intense need these regional and local offices are to ensure that people can petition and get services from their governments. So you certainly have my commitment to work with you.

Senator WYDEN. My time is up. I have heard nothing but positive things about you, Ms. Young, and your work, and I look forward to supporting your nomination.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, sir.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Wyden. Senator Toomey.

Senator TOOMEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Young, welcome to the Committee, and I know that this is not your decision but I do have to express just how deeply disappointed I am that President Biden and our Democratic colleagues have decided to undertake a purely partisan process to pass a bill with so much content that has absolutely nothing to do with COVID or an economic recovery, and that, despite the fact that last year Congress passed five-five—overwhelmingly bipartisan bills in response to the pandemic and the economic disaster that we faced. Those bills added up to almost \$4 trillion. Each one of them got over 90 votes.

The last bill, which was the second-largest economic relief bill in American history, was signed just about eight weeks ago. Hundreds of billions of dollars are still unspent. The economy is in a strong recovery mode. And absolutely there are pockets that are doing very badly, but on balance and in the aggregate, the economy is doing very, very well. And despite all that, rather than working with Republicans on identifying the areas that have been left behind, despite all of this massive, massive spending, the approach is just ignore Republicans, do a partisan approach, and spend almost \$2 trillion, the vast majority of which has nothing to do with COVID or the economic circumstances we are in. Even liberal Democratic economic advisors are warning—Larry Summers has famously said about this bill, that it brings on some big risks. The result could be inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation. So I really am very, very disappointed that this is the path that we are on.

I want to just be clear about some of the specifics, as I understand them, from the House-passed bill that has arrived at the Senate. Can you confirm that a family of four with an income of \$150,000 last year, that had no income decline, no income interruption whatsoever as a result of the pandemic and the lockdowns, that already received \$5,800, in addition to all the ordinary six-figure income, and under this bill they will get another \$5,600 from taxpayers. Is that accurate?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Toomey, I do believe the House bill is very similar to the bipartisan ones you mentioned earlier, so yes.

Senator TOOMEY. Yeah, so this is breathtaking for most Americans, that affluent families, with no interruption whatsoever in their income, having already gotten \$5,800 from taxpayers, now they are going to get yet another \$5,600. It is as if money grows on trees, and the Federal Government should be in the business of sending affluent people checks, maybe periodically, maybe regularly. There is just no rational basis for this.

Let me ask you this. In 2020, we now know that according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis—that is part of the Commerce Department—the aggregate revenue collected by State and local governments hit an all-time record high. There are a lot of reasons for it but that is the fact, all-time record high in 2020. And that is sep-

arate and apart, that is revenue that they collected. That is separate from the \$500 billion that went to State and local governments over the course of last year, under a variety of bills.

Now we are told that the House bill and the Biden proposal is to send yet another \$350 billion. Isn't it actually quite likely that a number of States are simply, with all of this cash being thrown at them, they are going to cut taxes at the State level. Don't you think that is a reasonably likely outcome?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, you talked about President Biden's bipartisanship. He continues to outreach to governors on both sides of the aisle who continue to say that they are in need. It is not just a revenue loss fund but also one in which we expect those States and locals to continue to provide necessary services as people depend on their local units of government.

Senator TOOMEY. I understand, but if you are collecting an all-time record level of revenue, probably you can provide the services that ordinarily provide, and if in addition to an all-time record amount of revenue you got half a trillion dollars from the Federal Government, it seems like there is lots of money to go around.

Last question. I wonder, do you think there is any downside whatsoever, any reason at all, any concerns, about systematically paying people more not to work than they make working, designing an unemployment system whereby a very substantial percentage of workers will get paid more to sit at home than they get paid to go to their work? Is this how we should demonstrate our commitment to the dignity of work?

Ms. YOUNG. That was a phrase I was going to use. Certainly people I know from all walks of life have dignity of work. They are not accepting government assistance, in my opinion, and in some of the data we have seen they are using this enhanced unemployment to make ends meet.

Senator TOOMEY. I see my time has expired. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Toomey. Senator Stabenow.

Senator STABENOW. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, Ms. Young, congratulations on your nomination. I have heard nothing but extremely positive things, both from Democrats and Republicans, and I look forward to working with you if you are confirmed, which hopefully will happen. I also strongly support Neera Tanden, and I think the two of you would be really an excellent pair, and I am hopeful that we will have both of you.

I do want to say to my friend who just spoke that when we talk about bipartisanship, certainly in the last year in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act we had a bipartisan deal. We moved on some things, but then we got to, I think it was May, and the Senate Republican leader said he thought no more needed to be done at that point, you know, that things were okay, we did not need to act. It took from May until December to pass additional support for American families and to address the pandemic and issues around trying to get children back to school safely.

We do not have that much time now. We just do not have time to wait another six, eight months. What we have is bipartisan sup-

port in the country, and we have got to get as many shots in people's arms in possible. We have got to help people in small businesses, small family farms get through and survive this pandemic, and we have got to make sure every child can get back into school safely, period. And so I am glad we are moving, and we certainly would welcome bipartisan support from our colleagues in the Senate.

Now on question, let me just say that when I talk—there are so many things on your plate that I want to talk specifics on things that I am involved with. As the Chairwoman of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, right now when we look at the climate crisis we have a great potential to harness our farms and forests as leaders in tackling the climate crisis. And I am working on several bipartisan bills, along with my great friend, Senator Braun, and other colleagues, and I look forward to working with the administration to enact them, which will give Secretary Vilsack and others at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) new tools to address this urgent issue, in a voluntary, bipartisan, producer-led way, which is our focus.

So if confirmed, will you commit to working with us to prioritize climate-smart agriculture and forestry investments in the President's upcoming budgets and through other actions at the Department of Agriculture and elsewhere?

Ms. YOUNG. You have my absolute commitment to work with you on those very important issues.

Senator STABENOW. Great. Let me talk about something else that is certainly at the forefront in the pandemic, and that is the mental health of millions and millions and millions of Americans. We have traditionally, historically underfunded behavioral health systems in this country. The good news is that we are making progress.

My friend, Senator Roy Blunt, and I have been leading efforts strongly supported on both sides of the aisle, to improve quality care through the creation of new certified community behavioral health clinics. These clinics, among other things, require high-quality standards, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week crisis services, outpatient mental health care, substance abuse care, and working with emergency rooms, law enforcement, and veterans' groups, which is very important.

So when we look at this we are actually saving money as well as doing something very effective. The last Health and Human Services (HHS) budget found that these services led to a 63 percent decrease in emergency department visits for behavioral health, 60 percent reduction in time spent in jail, which is why this is so strongly supported by sheriffs and police chiefs and so on, and a 41 percent decrease in homelessness.

The challenge for us is quantifying that in terms of the budget. First of all, we should be covering these service in health care above the neck as well as below the neck, and could you talk about the role of OMB in quantifying some of the downstream savings from increased access to behavioral health care, and can we count on you to focus on those issues in upcoming budgets?

Ms. YOUNG. You absolutely can, and I am very proud of the behavioral and mental health funding in the current COVID package. It is much needed. It is an area, again, where I think the regular

appropriations process—would have loved to have done more, but we have certainly been living under budget caps for the last ten years. So COVID has exacerbated these problems. It is appropriate that it be in this package, and I am glad to see that it is.

Senator, you certainly have my commitment to helping quantify the benefits of this funding and working to ensure we have adequate funding and do better by those line items.

Senator STABENOW. Thank you so much. Mr. Chairman, I think probably my time is up. I will just follow up with Ms. Young about another passionate, important topic, which is making sure that we are supporting all efforts to protect our Great Lakes.

So thank you very much. I look forward to supporting your confirmation.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Stabenow. Senator Kennedy.

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Young, how are you?

Ms. YOUNG. Good, sir. How are you?

Senator KENNEDY. I am okay. I want to ask you about the proclivity of the Federal Government to persist in paying dead people. You probably read about it, but last—let me see here—last spring, when we sent out our first batch of coronavirus relief checks, we paid out \$1.4 billion to deceased Americans. And we do not get this money back, and, of course, in some instances, in many instances the checks are cashed, which obviously is indicative of fraud.

We have passed legislation, and let me back up. We are not sure how much we pay out in checks to dead people every year, but it is a lot. It is in the billions and billions and billions of dollars, and there is a lot of fraud involved.

The Congress passed legislation to try to fix this problem. I will not bore you with the details, but because of the politics we had to put in a provision that the legislation would not really take effect for 3 years. So we basically had to agree, because of the politics, that we would continue to pay dead people for 3 more years.

Can you do something about that when you are running OMB?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Kennedy, I think you have pursued this. I know it is very important. You pursued it in the Financial Services construction of Appropriations Committee so I am very familiar with your work here and your consistent drumbeat. I think part of this is the government systems. We talked about this earlier, with a different Senator, is we have to do better with our IT systems. That is definitely part of the problem, and I will certainly commit to working, just like I did previously, in improving these systems so that we—no one wants fraud, waste, and abuse in important government programs. It does a disservice to those who really need government services. It puts a target on their back. So I think there is a bipartisan commitment to make sure we do what we can to weed out—

Senator KENNEDY. Can I interrupt you, Ms. Young—

Ms. YOUNG. Yes, sir.

Senator KENNEDY. —because, look, I have watched you and I have followed your career, and you are a very smart person and I think you can fix this. And, to me it is very simple. We, meaning the Federal Government, get data every year, every month, every

day from the States about who died. It is not perfect data but we get it, and it goes into a database at the Federal Government. But the group in charge of maintaining that database does not really share it with other agencies. It is complicated. It is needlessly complicated.

And I think that you are a very smart person. I think that if you said, look, you call the White House, speak to the President, and say, "Mr. President, this is low-hanging fruit. We really need to stop paying dead people. It is embarrassing. And Congress has acted on it but because of the politics it had to delay the implementation of the bill for 3 years. Can't we, Mr. President, issue some sort of Executive order and stop paying dead people? I mean, don't we owe that, at least to the taxpayers?"

And I know it is complicated, you know, but it is needlessly complicated. It is very simple. We have the data. It may not be perfect, but it is better than nothing, but we continue to send out the checks. And I think you are going to be running OMB. I think you could stop it.

Ms. YOUNG. Well, Senator Kennedy—

Senator KENNEDY. I have full confidence in you.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you for the full confidence. I appreciate that. If I am confirmed as Deputy you certainly have my commitment to work with you on this. You have raised some good points.

Senator KENNEDY. You may be more than Deputy. You may be the sheriff. I do not expect you to comment on that.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, sir.

Senator KENNEDY. Help me do something about this. I know you can do it.

Ms. YOUNG. I look forward to working with you. I do commit to work with you and your staff on this issue. As you said, the American people deserve a Federal Government who gets its data right, and I think it is a bipartisan effort to weed out any whiff of fraud, waste, and abuse. Thank you.

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you, Ms. Young. Thank you so much.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Kennedy. Senator Whitehouse.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Ms. Young, how are you? Welcome. I have two things that I want to show to you. The first is this book, which is a compilation of a whole variety of reports that relate to, as the title says, The Economic Risks of Climate Change. We all know that it is going to change our physical world. We all know that it is going to raise sea levels. We all know it is going to change temperatures, move fisheries around, change weather, create all of these physical, biological, natural consequences.

But we have not focused as much as I think we should have on the economic consequences. For instance, when sea levels rise and people who have predictive capability are able to see where the sea levels are going to rise to, they are going to go to mortgage companies, and they are going to go to insurance companies, and they are going to say, "Hey, I have got some information that you ought to have before you insure that house, or before you issue a mortgage on that house."

So, nonetheless than Freddie Mac, the big mortgage behemoth, has warned that we are going to have a coastal property values

crash when those sea level rise warnings hit the mortgage and insurance markets that support coastal property, and that it is going to be worse than the 2008 mortgage meltdown. So that is a pretty serious warning. That is just one.

We have got a Nobel Prize winner, testifying under oath, about the catastrophic economic consequences we are looking at. We have got major banks. We have got the Fed. We have got foreign sovereign banks. We have got major, pretty rough corporation organizations who are not exactly eleemosynary. And they are warning, in their own interests, that this is a big deal.

So I would ask you to please flip through this—we will give you a copy—because I think it is going to be really important for this administration, which has done a great job on tackling the climate change problem, at least in its early initial steps—to make sure that these warnings are made loud and clear. It is probably the most warned of hazard that we have ever seen, but because the fossil fuel industry has got so much of our Congress locked up in its grip we have not responded to those warnings.

So that is one. If you could take that and also take this issue seriously. I will be hounding you about it, obviously.

Ms. YOUNG. I am from the State of Louisiana, and—

Senator WHITEHOUSE. So you know it.

Ms. YOUNG. Yes.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Yes. You are losing more of your coastline than I think any other state in the country right now, and Rhode Island, my State, is looking to having to redraw its map. Senator Kaine here is looking at losing Norfolk Naval Station, because you can build the piers up higher and higher at Norfolk Naval Station but you cannot build up the schools and the markets and the roads and the entire community that supports that naval station there. So the former head of his naval station has warned that in 20 years that thing is gone. We are going to have to re-site that naval station.

So this is all serious, and because of fossil fuel mischief a lot of Members of Congress will not take it seriously, and we have got to make sure people understand. So thank you.

The second thing is a health care thing. I use this graph a lot. CBO, back around the time that we did the Affordable Care Act (ACA), did a prediction of American health care costs were going to rise, which is this top line. It turns out, after the Affordable Care Act got passed, health care costs did not go up so fast, and we actually got the lower line as our experience. So if you take the current projection from our lower experience and compare it to what that projection is tagged onto the previous experience, you get this green differential, which, in the next 10 years, is \$6 trillion savings on Federal health care.

In 2024, we are going to hit the Medicare trust fund. We do not have much time. We have got to fix this. Nobody is going to cut benefits. But whatever is happening here that saves \$6 trillion, we need to do a lot more of. And I submit to you that it is quality improvements and incentives in the health care system, it is getting away from fee-for-service treadmill in the health care system, and it is really pushing the accountable care organizations, the provider



Accountable Care Organizations (ACO), that are doing such a good job.

I have got two of the best ones in Rhode Island. World class. They are not the best in Rhode Island. They are the best in the world. They are the best in the country. They happen to be in Rhode Island. And they are driving costs down, their patients are getting better outcomes, everybody is happier with the better service. It is win, win, win. But we have got to understand that for the big deal that it is, and connect those little ACOs to this big \$6 trillion, and fix the mess that our health care system is right now, and I hope that we will work together on that also.

Ms. YOUNG. Absolutely, sir, and the bill you are considering this week does have some improvements, some increased subsidies for ACA. Hopefully can get more people in it, and I think there is a lot more to do on the ACA front to ensure that that graph continues to get bigger.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Yeah. We can spread that actually further with more work that is good stuff. Thanks, Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Whitehouse. Senator Warner.

Senator WARNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and, Ms. Young, it is good to see you, at least virtually. I think you have been very impressive in your answers. I do want to say, though, that I know some of my colleagues on the Republican side have made the decision about Neera Tanden. I hope some will still reconsider. I look forward to supporting you, Ms. Young, but hope is still that, at least initially, I will be supporting you for Deputy Director.

I want to get to three quick questions. One, Virginia is home to about 170,000 Federal workers. They have been under enormous assault under the Trump administration as the previous administration tried to politicize the workforce. I saw it particularly in my role in the Intel Committee what has happened to our intel workforce. And while I was heartened by the Biden administration's initial actions to repeal the Schedule F Executive order that Trump tried to put in in the waning days of his administration, from bargaining rights to pay to just general morale, the Federal workforce has been hurting. Layered on top of that, obviously, all the additional constraints with COVID.

Can you speak on how you could coordinate with Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to deal with this overriding issue of moral in the Federal workforce?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I pause because I started my career as a civil servant at National Institutes of Health (NIH). I understand how much more this country has benefitted by having a motivated Federal workforce, who shows up every day, does over and beyond. They could be in private industry, a lot of them, making more than they do in their government service. So it is not about a job for the Federal workers that I have known and worked with. It is about service.

So that is one of the things I hope, if confirmed as Deputy Director, certainly within OMB, is to empower and bring a lot of that back to the career staff. I know that is a goal of mine, I hope to leave, during my time of service, is to let them know that we appreciate their service, we trust that they are good stewards of Fed-

eral policy, and you certainly have my commitment—some will need congressional fixes, congressional pardoners—to work with you to make sure that our Federal workers are getting the benefits necessary.

Often in these budget deals that come up one of the main losers are Federal workers. We tend to cut their retirement. We tend to do things that do not, I think, do a lot for morale. So you certainly have my commitment to work with you to bring back, I think, some of the things that have eroded over the last few years.

Senator WARNER. Well, I would look forward to working with you on that. I had that issue over my 12 years here, something started by Ted Kaufman when he served as a Senator from Delaware, going down on the floor of the Senate, calling out the great contribution of Federal workers on an individualized basis. Your work at NIH, you know, as you said, a lot of these workers could be making a lot more. This was a piece of public service and it is going to be great working with a partner who supports that service.

Kind of related to that, one of the areas that the Chairman has been a big advocate, and I have generally been supportive of during the period of COVID, trying to help workers with increased unemployment benefits and trying to make sure we cover a whole group of folks, for example, gig workers and others I think is a very positive action. One of the things that we have had some debate on is whether the economy includes some of that additional benefits cut back. And we have had, I think, a good debate on this issue, but the challenge has been, to be able to do that, we have got to upgrade our IT systems within the Federal Government. Now, literally, we could not even put in place economic stabilizers in a rational way because our IT system is so bad. We have dramatically underinvested, not just under Trump but candidly even under President Obama. There is something called the Technology Modernization Fund (TMF). I hope you will [inaudible] legislation that I have got. I know President Biden put forward a \$9 billion investment and unfortunately it got cut back in the House to \$2 billion.

In your last two seconds, can you talk to upgrading our technology?

Ms. YOUNG. Yes. You heard it through several Senators' questions that, you know, it is central to many issues we have with payments to individuals, with ensuring our financial audits, a lot of it comes back down to technology, and you certainly have my commitment to work with you. I am very familiar with the TMF, making sure we get investments there.

Senator WARNER. Thank you, Ms. Young. I look forward to supporting you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Merkley.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and, Ms. Young, I just want to jump right into questions since we do not have a lot of time. We had the situation in previous administrations where OIRA, part of OMB, has proceeded to be a place where rules go and disappear, and never to be seen again, or to sit untended for years. Things like mercury air toxics rule, rearview cameras in cars, the issue of a rule related to coal ash.

We have the vaping rule, which we had all these illegal products on the market and nothing happened, and millions of American youth became addicted to vaping, a situation very hard to reverse which will affect health care costs and the quality of life for millions of Americans for generations to come.

And so how do you feel about this section of OIRA becoming just this place where regulations go to suffer and die with no transparency about what is happening?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, it is certainly not the statutory goal of OIRA and something we should not strive to have that opinion of OIRA. I do believe we can use the presidential memo calling for OMB to lead an effort to improve and modernize, to do something about that perception, and work with our partners in Congress to make sure that we fix this issue.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you, and I look forward to talking with you when we end up with challenges of disappearing regulations in OIRA in the future.

I want to turn then to the cost benefit analysis that you referred to before, and the decision to keep it in place. Often that cost benefit analysis does not capture externalities, and certainly not the social cost of carbon. Can you speak to how OMB's cost benefit analysis can reflect the true cost of decarbonization or the true advantages of decarbonization?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I think you are speaking to the very core of the presidential memo that we have talked a lot about, on improving and modernizing. I think it is good to keep a basic set of facts, a cost benefit, but you are absolutely right. You see it in carbon, and actually not just carbon, in greenhouse gases, you see it in regulations that have to do with servicing people who might be from rural America or living with disabilities, that often looking just at costs and benefits is not enough to understand the full impact. If our goal is to improve the lives of all Americans, I think we have to, even if it is difficult, find a way to quantify these things, because as you mentioned and as Senator Whitehouse has mentioned, climate change is an economics issue as much as anything.

Senator MERKLEY. Does that mean that the OMB cost benefit analysis will now incorporate the social cost of carbon?

Ms. YOUNG. I think, Senator, you have seen administrative action. I am not there yet, but if confirmed I am happy to get back to you on the details. I cannot speak about every single action that has occurred, since I am not there, but my understanding on the social cost of greenhouse gases, with carbon being one part of that, there are working groups that have reformed, that have been done away with in order to help quantify that cost.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you, Ms. Young. President Biden, in a related issue, has committed to directing 40 percent of green Federal investments towards environmental justice communities, necessitating a sort of equity screen and recognizing that low-income communities are often hit particularly hard by environmental effects. But that has to be tracked. Do you see OMB as having a role in tracking and targeting those investments to address that 40 percent goal?

Ms. YOUNG. OMB will be a part of that process, as stated in the President's Executive order on climate change. There is a specific section dealing exclusively with environmental justice and it lays out the members of the council that will deal with those issues, and OMB will be a part of that.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you. And finally, how do you envision OMB working to drive solutions to the student debt crisis in our country?

Ms. YOUNG. I have to imagine OMB will be central to offering ideas and legislative solutions. I do know that it will take a partner in Congress to ensure we deal with that issue. You do not normally like breakups, but one of my breakups has been with Navient, myself, 3 years ago. It is crushing, the student loan debt, and I am one of the lucky ones.

Senator MERKLEY. I am sorry. I missed that. Your own personal loan?

Ms. YOUNG. My own personal loans. It was one of the best breakups I have ever had, was to pay the last payment to Navient, and again, that was 22 years after I started college, and I am one of the lucky ones.

Senator MERKLEY. Well, congratulations. I hope you had a big party at that moment, and I do hope that OMB will work in partnership with the administration on the cancellation of loan debt. I support the broader goal of \$50,000. It would be incredible stimulus and an opportunity for so many to escape this deep burden that other developing countries do not impose on their aspiring students. But even at the lower level of \$10,000, it is one thing to have it as a vision and it is another to actually make it happen, and I hope OMB can help with that.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Merkley. Senator Braun.

Senator BRAUN. Thank you, Chairman Sanders. Good to be here discussing something, Ms. Young, that to me—I have been here a couple of years, and I know you have been in the House part of Appropriations. I have run an enterprise that has had to really be worried about what lies down the road. In other words, how do you get things to work out financially?

I see a trajectory that we are on that just, to me, looks unsustainable, and whether you believe in the modern monetary theory. With what you crafted, being involved in appropriations, where we are at currently, where we have got structural, trillion-dollar deficits. We have got a balance sheet that, I do not care how good you are as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), would be something you could not be proud of. Here, it is different. You know, we are lucky that we are in a place where we can borrow for nearly zero. That changes as soon as we are not the reserve currency. You have got an impending crisis with the Medicare trust fund being completely depleted here in a little over 5 years. We have been paying into it, employers and employees, since the '60s. It is social security that is even more ominous in terms of what would happen if you let it continue on the trajectory.

Tell me a little bit about how you think, for anyone here, especially that looks to the Federal Government as a place that you

want to do more with, how do you keep it in a healthy place going from here forward, and what do you think your input has been towards being an appropriator, that, to me, looks like no one really cares about how this is going to work out for future generations.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Braun, you know, I perfectly acknowledge long-term debt has to be addressed. It is probably only going to be addressed with bipartisan solutions. But I do have to turn to, you know, people smarter than me, and I would certainly listen to Secretary Yellen, who tells us we will be on a worse economic trajectory if we do not do something—not just do something—if we do not ensure the health of American citizens and then turn our full sights to ensuring investments for our economic recovery. At some point we are going to have to turn to long-term, but I do not think we have ever faced anything like this pandemic before.

So I certainly agree with you, but I do think there is still room, as you mentioned. It is very cheap to borrow right now, which is something I think we also have to look at when we are looking at the response to the pandemic.

Senator BRAUN. So normally when you borrow money you do it for something that is a tangible asset, an investment, only borrow to invest, never borrow to spend or consume. Of course, we consume everything here. I think that is another thing to think about.

Let me ask you, on the revenue side of the ledger. Everybody is really good at spending here. I have had conversations with folks on the Budget Committee. Can you raise revenue? Do you think it is realistic that you can bridge the structural deficit gap with that, and how would you consider doing that? And can you do that in a meaningful way before you start to throttle back economic growth, and also, looking at maybe what was in place pre-COVID to whereas somebody off the street, I thought we had it pretty well hitting the mark. We helped small businesses through the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, C-corps got probably way too big a break that they did not need. What do you think about the revenue side, that no one wants to talk about?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Braun, I mean, I am sure you already know this. President Biden has looked to increasing the tax rate for those over \$400,000, and for some corporations who, I think, some of the lessons from the tax break did not do as much investing in their personnel as was hoped or touted before that act.

So I do think there is some room, on the revenue side, to help out long-term debt. I do think there are some other things besides revenue and spending. Senator Whitehouse talked about the cost of health care. We have got to do something so the government is not paying nearly as much for health care and neither are private citizens.

So I think there will have to be a multi-pronged view of how we do this, but, you know, we cannot cut benefits for people that have paid into them. I have my parents here. You know, they are called entitlements for a reason. People have paid their entire careers in their lives for these benefits, and part of that is ensuring that health care does not cost what it costs to provide it to the American people.

Senator BRAUN. Well, thank you, and I think that is a bit of realism, and it is going to take some really hard decisions that, in my

observation, do not happen often here, along the lines of having some political will to make those tough decisions if we are going to have it sustainable in the long run.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, sir.

Senator BRAUN. Thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Braun. Senator Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks, Ms. Young. Congratulations to you. I intend to support you, and you have had a distinguished public service career.

Two editorial comments and two questions. One editorial comment, I am not sure you should need Senate confirmation. I think if President Biden wants to hire you to be Deputy Director I think he should be able to hire you. I am in my ninth year in the Senate, third President, and an observation about the Senate is I think we have too many Senate-confirmable positions, and each one chews up some Committee time and then chews up some floor time. And by chewing up finite time then legislative time gets shrunk. So I might start urging that on my colleagues. I would love to have you here to ask you tons of questions, but I do not necessarily think that Deputy Cabinet Secretaries and Deputy Directors of agencies should need Senate confirmation. That is editorial comment number one.

Number two, Neera Tanden. The controversy about Neera is largely over her social media comments, which could be levied at virtually all of us. I mean, it is partly a challenge for the individual, and she has got to own that, and she has apologized for it, and it is partly the world we live in, where we say things in the heat of the moment and social media gives us the ability to do it.

My editorial comment is this. We faced so many nominees in the past administration who had really intemperate things to say in social media accounts, including about me, but they apologized. And when they apologized their apologies were accepted by virtually all Republicans and a lot of Democrats.

So Neera Tanden has apologized, and I just worry that there is a double standard with her that why would we accept the apologies of others, about comments on social media, that, if anything, were more extreme, and not accept Neera Tanden's apologies? And I am nervous about that, and I ask that question not just to Republicans. I ask it to Democrats.

Two questions.

Ms. YOUNG. And, Senator Kaine, I know you were speaking, but I have not had the chance to weigh in on this question. I certainly think before this Committee you saw Neera Tanden apologize profusely about the tweets. I think what you also saw is an expansive knowledge of various policy areas. And certainly I have gotten to know Neera over the last few weeks. We did not have much interactions before then, and I do think we both bring some skill sets in different areas where we make a great team, if both of us were confirmed. So thank you for those comments and I hope if you listen to her time before this Committee and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC), she really did lay out her vast policy experience.

Senator KAINE. I completely agree with you. Now, on to the two questions. One of the things about your nomination that makes me

the happiest is that you have 14 years' experience working in the Article I branch. The OMB, in the previous administration, treated us like we were an annoyance on a good day, or an enemy on a bad day, and there were more bad days than good days. And they particularly treated those in the minority party, the Democrats in that administration, as the enemy. I am not sure they were that good to the majority party either.

So, for example, with issues like congressional requests for information, you will take an oath, should you be confirmed, to the Constitution of the United States, not to the President. Can I have your assurance—and you have already been asked this by Senator Sanders, but I want to have your assurance on this. Will you treat, as somebody who has sat on the congressional side of this dais, will you treat requests from Senators on this Committee, be they Democratic or Republican, with respect, and try to be as responsive as you can, as promptly as you can?

Ms. YOUNG. I cannot answer that more emphatically. Yes, and you are absolutely right. I have heard from Republican members as well who not only could not get information but would see their things important to them go to OMB to never be seen again.

Senator Kaine. And if you have a problem, or anybody at OMB, with committee members just like pestering you so you cannot do your work, you can take that to the Chairman and the Chairman can be an enforcer and tell us to knock it off. But reasonable requests should be dealt with in a prompt fashion, whether they are made by Republicans or Democrats. I am glad to hear you agree with that, and I knew you would.

Second question. So I came into the Senate in January of 2013. Sequestration and budget caps went into effect in late February. We had a 2-week government shutdown in October. We have had endless CRs. We had a month-long shutdown of a portion of the U.S. Government in late '18 and 2019. I have an opinion about how I would grade the Federal budget process since I have been here. If I was asking you to grade the Federal budget process, what grade would you give it?

Ms. YOUNG. Wow, that is a tough one, on the process.

Senator Kaine. Well, not the process, not the process as in the statute, but grade our performance.

Ms. YOUNG. Okay. Get away from the process—

Senator Kaine. Rate our performance.

Ms. YOUNG. —which is often ugly. When we finish I will give it an A, because we got there, and I think there is a lot of value in that.

Senator Kaine. I am just going to say, I would not give it an A, and I would love an acknowledgment that there should be some significant improvement. That is not going to affect my vote.

Ms. YOUNG. There has to be improvement, Senator. I still find a lot of intrinsic value in working through an annual process, and you and I talked about this, as someone who loves this institution. And I have told you this personally, my concern would be if anything would keep Congress from doing that bare-knuckle negotiations, where you got to hold the Executive branch accountable each year. So yes, it needs improvement, but I would hate to see anything that required less congressional action because of that.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, and thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Kaine. Senator Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, and I was pleased with Neera Tanden's nomination to be Director of OMB, and I am very pleased with yours to be the Deputy Director. Congratulations.

And I want to pick up a little bit on the process, but especially the part of the process that has been broken, at least over the last 4 years. And as the staff director of the House Appropriations Committee you were deeply involved in addressing the illegal withholding of funds by OMB during the last administration, the most prominent case involved withholding security assistance for Ukraine.

And I asked at the time that the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the nonpartisan GAO, review that matter and determine whether a withholding violated the Impoundment Control Act (ICA), which, as you know, is the law that is supposed to prevent the Executive branch, regardless of party, for unilaterally refusing to spend funds that are provided in laws passed by the Congress. GAO looked at it and confirmed that the Trump administration violated that law.

As a member of this Committee, the Budget Committee, we were able to put together bipartisan legislation that included a provision I proposed to strengthen the Impoundment Control Act and increase transparency for the apportionment process at OMB.

We have not yet passed that legislation. I would like to get your commitment to work with us to strengthen the laws that protect constitutional separation of powers and Congress' power of the purse. Having come from the Appropriations Committee I hope you will work us to do that.

Ms. YOUNG. Again, something near and dear to me, and you absolutely have my commitment to working on those. I know there are lots of efforts to strengthen the ICA, and I think also in my commitment to you I will also, you know, commit to working with GAO, who are the arbiters in these things, and they found wrongdoing, and I think we should listen to them when they make those, I think, very thoughtful judgments.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. I appreciate that. Look, there is a process, and GAO has pointed out some things we can do to further strengthen that process. Obviously, the Executive branch has a role in budget consideration, but as you know, once Congress has spoken it is imperative that the administration, any administration, follow the law with respect to those decisions.

I would like to just briefly ask you about the issue of long-term unemployment, because we are all hopeful that as we beat this pandemic and with the passage, I hope, of the emergency bill, that we expect to pass before the middle of this month, that the economy will begin to improve. And we hope to see steady improvement, more people going back to work.

But I am very worried about individuals who are long-term unemployed. We have over 4 million long-term unemployed Americans right now. These are individuals who have been out of work for more than 6 months, looking for work. On top of that we have



over 7 million Americans who have essentially dropped out of the workforce, and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Chairman Powell, in response to a question I asked him the other day, indicated that we are going to have to be very intentional about policies to help the long-term unemployed. Even before the pandemic, when the economy was working better, we had over 1 million Americans who were long-term unemployed.

I do not expect you to commit to any details, but just would you agree that the issue of long-term unemployment is one that we have to address with intentionality, meaning we cannot just expect that as the economy improves that the long-term unemployed will automatically find work, because we know that has not been true in the past.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Van Hollen, thank you for bringing this up. I think one of the goals of government is to ensure that those who are easily left behind, that we ensure that they are not. So I look forward to working with you on this.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. I appreciate it. These are individuals who want to work, they are out there looking for jobs, and really through no fault of their own unable to find it. And it hurts them, and, of course, it hurts the larger community when we are not able to take advantage of their skills in growing the economy.

So thank you, and, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Van Hollen. Senator Padilla.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Young, for your willingness to serve. I know in a prior year for the Director of OMB position I was able to ask questions generally in regards to concern about equity and the role OMB can play in policymaking and budgeting to address equity challenges in America. We also touched on the economic contributions of immigrants over the course of our nation's history. I know earlier in this hearing we have heard a lot of questions about a number of issues, from climate to COVID response and everything in between.

I say all that because I want to raise a couple of issues that are unique, important not just to California, my home State, but the nation as a whole, so let me jump into it.

The first of the two is housing and homelessness. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated our nation's ongoing affordable housing and homelessness crises. Nearly 1 in 5 renters across the country, including an estimated 2 million Californians alone, have been unable to catch up on their rent. Even before the pandemic, a lack of affordable housing and rising rents pushed too many into our societal safety net and even into homelessness, with now more than 150,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in California, which could get worse, with evictions related to our recent economic downturn.

So as we look to build back better, will you commit to ensuring that the President's budget requests seek significant increases for critical housing programs such as Committee Development Block Grant Program, the Home Investment Partnership Program, homelessness assistance grants, and expanded Section 8 vouchers? And I welcome any other recommendations or suggestions you have in this regard.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I certainly do commit—I am not there yet so I have not been involved in the budget development. But those are programs I have supported during my time as staff director of the Appropriations Committee, so I certainly will look to work with you to make sure that there is adequate funding in not just the annual programs but I do believe there is still work to be done as we recover from COVID, and possible other legislation.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you for that. I look forward to following up with you in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

The second area—again, I think to issues that have been raised already—is relative to scientific research fundings. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the only agency that funds basic non-biomedical research, as you know. The potentially groundbreaking projects that the NSF supports drive economic growth and spur transformative discoveries that are critical to our lives.

Over the past several decades, these breakthroughs have included accelerated supercomputing, bar codes, improving tumor detection, and even the shaping of the internet as we know it today. Today the NSF is funding projects to better understand the inner working of living cells, forecast and predict earthquakes and tsunamis, advance clean energy technologies, and more.

Now while Congress has approved funding increase to NSF's medical counterpart, the National Institutes of Health, NSF funding has not kept pace. So as we act to reverse the denigration of science and scientists that we have seen over the last 4 years, it is critical, in my opinion, that we also support scientists and scientific research with the additional funding that they need.

So as you work to develop the President's budget request for fiscal year 2022, will you consider prioritizing new investments in scientific research, including increased funding for the National Science Foundation? And part two of the question is, will you also work to uphold the integrity of science as well as support scientist at Federal agencies and research institutions throughout the nation?

Ms. YOUNG. I started my career at NIH. I am certainly aware the attention NIH gets from bipartisan members, but its sisters in science, NSF, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), all deserve the same level of support. NSF does great work, supports great work among universities. So you certainly have my commitment to ensuring that I would lead my voice to those who want to prioritize NSF. And we certainly have seen a need for that increased basic research during COVID, not just at NIH but NSF as well.

Senator PADILLA. As one of the few engineers and scientists serving in this body I thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Padilla. I want to thank Ms. Young for appearing before the Committee today. Ms. Young, your full statement will be included in the record. As information for all Senators, questions for the record are due by 12 noon tomorrow, with signed hard copies delivered to the Committee clerk in Dirksen 624. Emailed copies will also be accepted, due to our cur-

rent conditions, under our rules. Ms. Young will have 7 days from receipt of our questions to respond with answers.

With no further business—

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, may I make one last comment before we close out?

Chairman SANDERS. Very briefly.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Very briefly. I just had an exchange with Director Wray about the FBI's consistent refusal to answer questions from Congress through the Trump administration. In nine different committee hearings, seven got zero Questions for the Record (QFR) answered. Zero. And what he blamed it on was the interagency process that all have to go through, which OMB runs.

So we need to clean that mess up. I think that is a phony, basically, but we need to clean that mess up.

Ms. YOUNG. On the Appropriations Committee we can barely produce hearing volumes for lack of QFRs, so you certainly have my commitment that we need to do better.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. Thank you, Senator Whitehouse. Under our rules, Ms. Young will have 7 days from receipt of our questions to respond with answers.

With no further business before the Committee, this hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:39 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD**

[Prepared statement, responses to written questions, and additional material supplied for the record follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF MS. SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget

Ms. Shalanda Young  
Nominee to be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget  
March 2, 2021

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and Members of the Committee—

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as President Biden’s nominee for the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I want to thank Chairman Leahy for introducing me to the Committee today. One of the joys of being Staff Director of the Appropriations Committee has been seeing the amazing relationships and results that have come from Senator Leahy, Senator Shelby, Ranking Member Granger, and my former boss, Chairwoman Lowey. I still vividly remember those four meeting to avert another government shutdown back in February of 2019. Even in those tense moments, Senator Leahy still took the time to show me pictures of his beloved family before announcing to the press that a compromise had been reached. I will be forever grateful for the kindness Senator Leahy has always shown, even in the most stressful environments.

I am accompanied today by my parents, Loyce and Ronald Smith, who are here from Louisiana. My 92-year-old grandmother, who is still in Louisiana, could not make it due to COVID-19 precautions. I want to thank them and my extended family for their unwavering support over the years.

Members of this distinguished Committee, I come before you today as someone who grew up in rural America. I spent most of my youth in Clinton, Louisiana. Back then, Clinton had a population of around 2,000. It’s where my maternal great grandparents lived, got married, and had my grandmother in 1928. Somehow, even then, in the segregated South, my great grandparents sent their child, my grandmother, to college. I am grateful they prioritized education—a commitment that has stayed in my family for generations.

All families deserve to see their children have that same opportunity to pursue their potential. Another former boss of mine, Chairman Obey, used to say a budget is your values. I share that belief, and firmly believe the federal budget can and should help make the promise of this country real for all families in every community.

I have spent the last four years as both the Minority and Majority Staff Director of the House Appropriations Committee. I care deeply about the institution of Congress and have been very proud to serve in a position that required compromise to ensure the American people had not only a functioning government, but one that invested in their future.

My work on the Appropriations Committee taught me that both sides can compromise without compromising their values—even when that means no one gets everything they want. I will forever be indebted to this institution, and if confirmed, I look forward to using my experience in

these halls to ensure both branches operate with mutual respect and work toward solutions that will improve the lives of those we serve.

I am not naïve about the challenges we face. Last year, I worked on the first COVID-19 supplemental that Congress passed in March of 2020. We were using models of past supplementals for Ebola and Zika because the full scale of the pandemic was still unclear. With COVID-19 deaths surpassing 500,000, our focus must remain on beating the virus, delivering immediate relief to millions of struggling Americans, and ensuring that we emerge from these crises even stronger than we were before. If confirmed, I look forward to engaging with members of Congress from both parties on this and other important work.

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and other Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to appear before this Committee, and I look forward to your questions.

**United States Senate**

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
ROOM SD-624  
(202) 224-0642

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-6250

**STATEMENT OF BIOGRAPHICAL AND  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION REQUESTED OF  
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES**

**A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

1. **Name:** Shalanda Delores Young
2. **Position to which nominated:** Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget
3. **Date of nomination:** 01/20/2021
4. **Address:** *(Redacted)*
5. **Date and place of birth:** August 29, 1977, Zachary Louisiana
6. **Marital status:** Single, Never been married
7. **Names and ages of children:** None
8. **Education:**  
Scotlandville Magnet High School, Baton Rouge, LA - Attended August 1992 - May 1995, High School  
  
Diploma issued May 25, 1995.  
Loyola University New Orleans - Attended August 1995 - May 1999, Bachelor of Arts Psychology issued  
May 16, 1999.  
Tulane University - Attended August 1999 - May 2001, Master of Health Administration issued May 19,  
2001.
9. **Employment record:** Attachment #1.
10. **Government experience:** All government experience is included in number 9.
11. **Business relationships:** None.
12. **Memberships:** Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (joined as an undergraduate but not currently active). Formerly a Member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.
13. **Political affiliations and activities:**

- (a) List all offices with a political party which you have held or any public office for which you have been a candidate. Not applicable
- (b) List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered to all political parties or election committees during the last 10 years.
- (c) Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$50 or more for the past 5 years.

Hillary for America, \$225.00, 2016.

14. **Honors and awards:** List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals and any other special recognitions for outstanding service or achievements.  
 Presidential Management Fellow - 2001-2003  
 John C. Stennis Fellow - 114th Congress  
 2019 Congressional Black Associates Trailblazer award

15. **Published writings:** A bitter pill to swallow: nonadherence with prophylactic antibiotics during the anthrax attacks and the role of private physicians, Published in: Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice and Science, July, 2004.

16. **Speeches:** No formal speeches

17. **Selection:**

- (a) What do you believe in your background or employment experience affirmatively qualifies you for this particular appointment?

For over fourteen years I have been on the legislative side of the Federal budget process in various roles with the House Appropriations Committee, including as its top staffer. I am routinely involved in funding decisions that deal with every government department and agency as well as the most prescient policy issues of the day. I believe that uniquely qualifies me for the position of OMB Deputy Director which helps oversee the workings of all of Government. In addition, I manage what may be the largest Committee staff on Capitol Hill, which hovers around 80 full time staff plus any number of contractors. I have treated the management side of my position with as much importance as the policy side.

- (b) Were any conditions, expressed or implied, attached to your nomination? If so, please explain.

No commitments have been made by me regarding how I will carry out the duties of the position for which I have been nominated.

## B. FUTURE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIPS

1. Will you sever all connections with your present employers, business firms, business associations or business organizations if you are confirmed by the Senate?

Yes

2. Do you have any plans, commitments or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the government? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Do you have any plans, commitments or agreements after completing government service to resume employment, affiliation or practice with your previous employer, business firm, association or organization? If so, please explain.  
No.

4. Has anybody made a commitment to employ your services in any capacity after you leave government service? If so, please identify such person(s) and commitment(s) and explain.  
No.

5. If confirmed, do you expect to serve out your full term or until the next Presidential election, whichever is applicable? If not, please explain.  
Yes.

**C. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

1. If confirmed, are there any issues from which you may have to recuse or disqualify yourself because of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest? If so, please explain.  
No.

2. Identify and describe all investments, obligations, liabilities, business relationships, dealings, financial transactions, and other financial relationships which you currently have or have had during the last 10 years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated.  
There are none.

3. Describe any activity during the past 10 years in which you have engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy other than while in a federal government capacity.  
Not outside of my capacity as a federal government employee.

4. Do you agree to have written opinions provided to the Committee the ethics officer of the Office of Management and Budget and by the Office of Government Ethics concerning potential conflicts of interest or any legal impediments to your serving in this position?  
Yes.

5. Explain how you will resolve potential conflicts of interest, including any disclosed by your responses to the above questions.  
I do not believe I have any conflicts of interest that would prevent me from fully performing the duties of the job for which I am nominated.

**D. LEGAL MATTERS**

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics for unprofessional conduct by, or been the subject of a complaint to any court, administrative agency, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If so, provide details.  
No.

2. To your knowledge, have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged or convicted (including pleas of guilty or nolo contendere) by any federal, State, or other law enforcement authority for violation of any federal, State, county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, other than a minor traffic offense? If so, provide details.  
No.



3. Have you or any business of which you are or were an officer, director or owner ever been involved as a party in interest in any administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation? If so, provide details.  
No.
4. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be considered in connection with your nomination.

**E. TESTIFYING BEFORE CONGRESS**

1. If confirmed, are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?  
Yes.
2. If confirmed, are you willing to provide such information as may be requested by any committee of the Congress?  
Yes.

**F. FINANCIAL DATA**

All information requested under this heading must be provided for yourself, your spouse, and your dependents. (This information will not be published in the record of the hearing on your nomination, but it will be retained in the Committee's files and will be available for public inspection, with the exception of income tax returns.)

1. Please provide personal financial information not already listed on the SF 278 Financial Disclosure form that identifies and states the value of all:
  - (a) assets of \$10,000 or more held directly or indirectly, including but not limited to bank accounts, securities, commodities futures, real estate, trusts (including the terms of any beneficial or blind trust of which you, your spouse, or any of your dependents may be a beneficiary), investments, and other personal property held in a trade or business or for investment other than household furnishings, personal effects, clothing, and automobiles; and There is no information in addition to that provided on my OGE Form 278.
  - (b) liabilities of \$10,000 or more including but not limited to debts, mortgages, loans, and other financial obligations for which you, your spouse, or your dependents have a direct or indirect liability or which may be guaranteed by you, your spouse, or dependents; and for each such liability indicate the nature of the liability, the amount, the name of the creditor, the terms of the payment, the security or collateral, and the current status of the debt payment. If the aggregate of your consumer debts exceeds \$10,000, please include the total as a liability. Please include additional information, as necessary, to assist the Committee in determining your financial solvency. The Committee reserves the right to request additional information if a solvency determination cannot be made definitively from the information provided.  
There is no information in addition to that provided on my OGE Form 278.
2. List sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock options, executory contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from current or previous business relationships, professional services and firm memberships, employers, clients and customers. If dates or amounts are estimated, please so state. Please only include those items not listed on the SF 278 Financial Disclosure form.  
*(Redacted)*
3. Provide the identity of and a description of the nature of any interest in an option, registered copyright, or patent held during the past 12 months and indicate which, if any, from which you have divested and the date of divestment unless already indicated on the personal financial statement.  
*(Redacted)*

4. Provide a description of any power of attorney which you hold for or on behalf of any other person.

*(Redacted)*

5. List sources and amounts of all gifts exceeding \$500 in value received by you, your spouse, and your dependents during each of the last three years. Gifts received from members of your immediate family need not be listed.

*(Redacted)*

6. Have you filed a Federal income tax return for each of the past 10 years? If not, please explain.

*(Redacted)*

7. Have your taxes always been paid on time including taxes paid on behalf of any employees? If not, please explain.

*(Redacted)*

8. Were all your taxes, federal, State, and local, current (filed and paid) as of the date of your nomination? If not, please explain.

*(Redacted)*

9. Has the Internal Revenue Service or any other state or local tax authority ever audited your Federal, state, local, or other tax return? If so, what resulted from the audit?

*(Redacted)*

10. Have any tax liens, either federal, State, or local, been filed against you or against any real property or personal property which you own either individually, jointly, or in partnership? If so, please give the particulars, including the date(s) and the nature and amount of the lien. State the resolution of the matter.

*(Redacted)*

11. Provide for the Committee copies of your Federal income tax returns for the past 3 years. These documents will be made available only to Senators and staff persons designated by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member. They will not be available for public inspection.

*(Redacted)*

12. Have you ever been late in paying court-ordered child support? If so, provide details.

*(Redacted)*

13. Have you ever filed for bankruptcy or been a party to any bankruptcy proceeding? If so, provide details.

*(Redacted)*

Attachment #1

**Legislative Branch Experience**

**U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Committee  
2005, 2007 – Present**

**Staff Director (2017 – Present)**

- Serves as chief advisor to House Leadership, Members of the Appropriations Committee, and the Democratic Caucus for all federal discretionary spending.
- Negotiated and oversaw strategy to enact into law all discretionary spending bills for fiscal years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- Spearheaded the congressional efforts to reopen the government in January 2019 while transitioning to the House Majority..
- Guided passage into law disaster response bills, including those to aid Puerto Rico in recovery from Hurricane Maria.
- Managed the process and developed strategy to pass COVID-19 relief legislation.
- Oversees and executes the subcommittee selection process by Democratic Members of the House Appropriations Committee.
- Manages approximately 80 staff between twelve Appropriations subcommittees and Surveys and Investigations staff.
- Participated in bipartisan travel to the Middle East, Africa, Eastern and Central Europe to oversee US government assistance and meet with senior foreign government officials. In partnership with the National Democratic Institute, led budget trainings for foreign governments with emerging democracies.

**Deputy Staff Director (2016-2017)**

- Assisted the Staff Director in advising Democratic Members, and Democratic House leadership on the United States discretionary budget.
- Assisted in negotiating funding levels for all United States government programs.

**Subcommittee Staff Director (2010-2017)**

- Served as lead analyst and advisor for all Democratic Members of the House Appropriations Committee on budget matters related to the Legislative Branch, Environmental Protection Agency, Government Services Administration (GSA), and District of Columbia (DC).
- Developed legislative strategies to further Democratic priorities in Appropriations bills through amendments, consultation with the House Republicans, and the Senate, as well as working with outside interest groups.
- Developed and implemented an oversight plan for the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch.
- Organized hearings to conduct oversight of agencies under the jurisdiction of the subcommittee.
- Authored the FY 2011 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill under Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

- Managed the legislative process for consideration of the Legislative Branch Appropriation bill, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, and the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.
- Advised House leadership offices, authorizing Committees, and Members' offices on fiscal and legal issues that impact the operations of the House of Representatives, including the implementation of the Affordable Care Act for congressional staff.

#### **Subcommittee Professional Staff (2007-2009)**

- Served as chief advisor for funding issues related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Office of Health Affairs, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding.
- Oversaw and funded the rebuilding and repair of FEMA after the Hurricane Katrina response.
- Reviewed and analyzed the President's budget and provided an analysis of the budget to the Members of the Appropriations Committee.
- Served as an advisor and analyst on appropriations and policy matters to the Full Committee and Subcommittee Chairmen.
- Advised Members of Congress and their staff on fiscal and policy matters, committee and floor amendments, and legislative strategy.
- Prepared questions for hearings, statements and consulted with Member offices on amendments.
- Drafted legislative text and report language.

#### **Detailee (2005)**

- Staffed two regular appropriations bills and worked with several subcommittees on the Hurricane Katrina and Avian Flu supplemental appropriations.
- Assisted with all aspects of the legislative process, including: preparing summaries of bills, communicating with Members of Congress and their staff regarding appropriations issues, writing hearing questions, assisting on the House floor during debate, writing talking points, preparing briefing materials, working with federal agencies, and writing legislative text and report language.
- Regularly met with advocacy and industry officials to gain more information about various issues.
- Organized and oversaw member requests/earmarks for the Housing and Urban Development and the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations Bills, which included building and using large Access databases.

#### **Executive Branch Experience**

##### **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

2001 – 2007

##### **Office of the NIH Director**

##### **Budget Analyst (2006-2007)**

- Chief advisor for modeling budget projections and producing Congressional budget justifications.

- Produced Congressional budget justifications and various reports for the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Management and Budget.
- Reviewed historical data and trends to prepare and validate future budget estimates.

**National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research**

**Public Health Analyst (2003-2006)**

- Researched methods to target health information to individuals in a culturally appropriate and user-friendly manner.
- Created and implemented plans to distribute information on dental issues to the general public, patient advocates, and legislative staff.
- Responsible for the Institute's online health information ([www.nidcr.nih.gov](http://www.nidcr.nih.gov)).
- Detailed to the US House of Representatives, Committee on Appropriations 06/2005 – 1/2006.


**Presidential Management Fellow (2001-2003)**

The Presidential Management Fellow program is a highly competitive program used to attract individuals with Graduate-level degrees to Federal service from a wide variety of academic disciplines who have an interest in, and commitment to, a career in public service. During the two year program I rotated to five offices at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to RAND Corporation.

AFFIDAVIT

Shabunda Young being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 23 day of February, 2021

  
Pamela L. Brown  
Notary Public



Senate Budget Committee Pre-Hearing Questions  
Shalanda Young, Nominee for Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Pre-Hearing Questions from Chairman Sanders

1. **Will you commit that, if confirmed, the Office of Management and Budget will provide a cost estimate of the Raise the Wage Act – which would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour – that shows the policy would have a substantial and direct impact on the federal budget?**

There is no greater economic priority than ensuring that hard working Americans can put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads, without having to keep multiple jobs. The President was clear and consistent during his campaign about the need to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. External analysis has shown that an increased minimum wage lowers costs for programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by ensuring more families do not need to rely on public programs. It also stands to reason that an increased minimum wage will increase tax revenue as it raises income for working families. If confirmed, I would work with OMB and agency staff to conduct an analysis of the impact of a minimum wage of \$15 on the federal budget and the broader economy. I would ensure that OMB is guided by facts and evidence for its economic analysis.

2. **Will you commit that, if confirmed, you will work with me toward advancing the following goals in a second reconciliation bill this year?**

- a. **Making public colleges tuition free and cancelling student for working families making \$125,000 per year or less.**

For too many students, especially low-income and students of color, earning a degree after high school is unaffordable and saddles them with debt. The President supports making public college tuition free for low-income and middle-class families. This administration welcomes the opportunity to partner with Congress on making college more affordable and addressing student debt.

- b. **Lowering the Medicare eligibility age and expanding Medicare to cover hearing, vision, and dental care.**

As a candidate, the President supported lowering the Medicare eligibility age to provide health care coverage options for individuals nearing retirement. If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Congress on the President's agenda to expand health coverage and lower health costs for all Americans.

- c. **Requiring Medicare to negotiate with the pharmaceutical companies to lower prices for prescription drugs for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.**

As a candidate, the President envisioned several strategies to reduce spending on drugs, including negotiation with pharmaceutical companies. The Administration is committed to lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and if confirmed I will look forward to working with Congress toward that goal.

- d. **Establishing a federal guarantee of 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.**

The United States is one of a handful of countries that does not offer guaranteed paid family leave to its workers. Eight in ten workers lack paid family leave to care for a new child or loved one. Fewer lower-income workers have access to paid leave. When parents are forced to make a choice between their jobs and caregiving responsibilities, the costs are great —both to them and the economy. This administration is committed to working with Congress to ensure all workers have access to up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare how critical it is to provide working families the support they need to care for their loved ones without having to sacrifice their jobs. In this unprecedented crisis, millions of mothers and fathers have struggled to balance work, child care during school closures, their own health needs, and caregiving responsibilities for children, spouses and elderly parents who have contracted the virus. America should join most of the rest of the world in ensuring paid family and medical leave for those who need it.

**e. Providing universal pre-kindergarten education for every three- and four-year-old in the country and make childcare more affordable for working families.**

Providing universal Pre-K is a priority for the President. This administration understands that universal Pre-K is critical to preparing young children for school and enabling all children, no matter what zip code they come from, to start Kindergarten on a level playing field. Investing in Pre-K and child care also reduces unfair barriers to employment for parents, and particularly working mothers. The President looks forward to partnering with Congress on these important issues. Research shows that high quality early childhood programs increase high school graduation and college attendance rates, improve employment outcomes, reduce the need for special education, decrease the number of students who must repeat grades, and reduce juvenile crime. Investing in quality early childhood programs also saves taxpayers money. Economists estimate that for every dollar we invest in these programs, we receive a return of four to seventeen dollars.

**f. Investing in K-12 public education, including tripling Title I funding for public schools, fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and rebuilding and modernizing public schools.**

Making a robust investment in public education is critical to the Nation's future, particularly at this moment in time given the impact that COVID has had on student learning. During the campaign, the President expressed his commitment to tripling funding for low-income schools and students, funding IDEA to meet its real demand and investing in school infrastructure. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with Congress to design these and other education investments in a way that will reach the most disadvantaged students and promote equity.

**g. Combatting climate change by investing at least \$2 trillion in wind, solar, and geothermal energy; electric vehicles; weatherization; energy storage; and clean drinking water – and creating 10 million good-paying jobs in the process.**

Yes. The President proposed a historic investment to create millions of good, union jobs rebuilding America's crumbling infrastructure – from roads and bridges to green spaces and water systems to electricity grids and universal broadband. Through these investments the President committed to build back better, upgrading 4 million buildings, weatherizing 2 million homes and driving dramatic cost reductions in critical clean energy technologies, including battery storage, negative emissions technologies, the next generation of building materials. I commit to working with you to implement these historic investments, including those for wind, solar, and geothermal energy; electric vehicles; weatherization; energy storage; and clean drinking water, while creating millions of good-paying jobs in the process.

**h. Rebuilding America by investing \$2 trillion investment in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure – our roads, bridges, sidewalks, schools, water systems, and affordable housing.**

One of the major components of the President's Build Back Better agenda was a large-scale investment in infrastructure, including upgrading our roads, bridges, transit and rail systems, schools



and housing. If confirmed, I would work with Congress to advance the shared goal of reinvesting in our core national infrastructure to meet the needs of the 21st century.

**Pre-Hearing Questions from Ranking Member Graham**

**1. Do you believe the nearly \$28 trillion national debt is a concern?**

Right now, the economic and public health crisis we face demands that we use every tool at our disposal to respond effectively. The risk of doing too little far outweighs the risk of doing too much, as economists across the political spectrum have emphasized. It is the case that over the past fifteen years, even as our debt level has increased dramatically, interest rates and therefore interest costs have declined substantially. Only by defeating the virus and restoring our economy to normal levels can federal tax revenue return to trend, which in turn reduces the deficit.

Over the longer term, underlying fiscal challenges remain. The aging of the population, rising health care costs, and a tax code that does not generate sufficient revenue combine to produce a long-term trajectory that should give us all pause. These are challenges that I hope the administration can work with Congress on a bipartisan basis to address.

**2. Do you agree that Social Security and Medicare have solvency issues? If so, can we solve these issues without reforms?**

It is true that the trust funds for both Social Security and Medicare will need more resources in coming years to ensure that the American people—who paid into the system—will continue to receive full benefits. Over the longer term, this Administration is committed to ensuring that Americans receive the benefits that they are entitled to, while pursuing policies that improve equity and fairness.

The Administration is committed to addressing and improving the programs' financial outlook. Some reforms to improve solvency do not cut benefits. For example, in Medicare, many reforms to the payment and delivery system and reforms to correct overpayments have the potential to reduce the growth in spending significantly without shifting costs to beneficiaries. The President has also proposed to protect and strengthen Social Security by applying Social Security payroll taxes to earnings above \$400,000 to ensure the most fortunate pay their fair share into the system. These programs must keep their promises for future generations while ensuring that we maintain the benefits that people so rely on.

**3. President Biden has introduced the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion stimulus that will be on top of the roughly \$3.5 trillion in legislation Congress has already passed in less than a year. There is also talk of more stimulus and spending outside of that, including up to \$4 trillion for infrastructure. What rationale do you see for that level of spending, and should it be targeted in some way? If so, how?**

The challenge of the current moment is to overcome the pandemic and rebuild our economy. Doing too little to promote the recovery will prolong economic scarring due to the pandemic and worsen the long-run fiscal outlook. The American Rescue Plan was calibrated to address our vaccination and other public health needs, our schools' needs, the needs of the unemployed, and the needs of all working families during this critical moment of the pandemic.

**4. Do you believe deficits and debt matter to a nation's long-term economic health?**

Deficits and debt do matter to a nation's long-term economic health. Many respected economists now argue that there is likely not a specific threshold at which debt becomes unreasonable. In particular, economists' thinking on the costs of debt has evolved in recent years, as interest rates and interest payments as a share of GDP have fallen despite rising debt. The causes of low interest rates are complex

and depend on a host of economic factors, from the wide availability of capital financing to the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve. If confirmed, I will carefully monitor these economic factors and their implications for the path of interest rates to ensure we are on a fiscally sustainable path.

Over the longer term, we need to ensure and to work towards a sustainable path with respect to our debt burden. The President intends to work with Congress to modernize the tax code to increase equity and improve our fiscal position.

**5. What metrics will the Biden Administration use to determine when the country can turn off the fiscal spigot?**

This Administration is committed to building an economy that better serves the American people. Presently, this means promoting a robust economic recovery by minimizing the long-term scarring of the pandemic and the recession. Moreover, to build a foundation for a strong economy for the decades to come, America must invest in modernizing our core infrastructure, address our myriad health care challenges, and work to resolve the many long-standing racial and economic inequities that so many Americans have borne the burden of for so long.

**6. When the time comes to address the debt, what specific government programs need to be considered for cuts or consolidation?**

I appreciate the great bipartisan leadership shown in Congress to address the Covid crisis; that leadership has recognized that in the immediate moment it is critical to act aggressively and that debt reduction would contract economic growth. The Covid crisis and severe economic challenges remain with us. As we move past the crisis, the long-term fiscal trajectory bears careful examination.

We can always ensure that the government works more efficiently and effectively to deliver needed services to people. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Congress on those ideas.

**7. Should entitlements be on the table in any effort to address debt and deficits?**

The aging of the population, rising health care costs, and insufficient revenue combine to produce a long-term trajectory that deserve our attention. This administration recognizes the importance of addressing health care costs, which benefits both the federal budget and families struggling to pay for coverage and care. The President has proposed allowing Medicare to directly negotiate the costs of prescription drugs, decreasing Medicare per-patient costs and saving the program hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade. The President has also proposed to protect and strengthen Social Security by applying Social Security payroll taxes to high earnings to ensure the richest pay their fair share into the system. While we must make sure these programs keep their promises for future generations, we must also ensure that we maintain the benefits that people so rely on. I believe that the best way to address these issues in the long term is to do so in a bipartisan manner, guided by facts and evidence. I would welcome the opportunity to work in a bipartisan with the Committee on these issues.

**8. What are your views on the minimum wage and, more specifically, on proposals to increase it to \$15 per hour? Do you support a regional variation in the minimum wage or a nationwide standard?**

There is no greater economic priority than ensuring that hard working Americans can put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads, without having to hold down multiple jobs. The President has been clear about the need to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. External analysis has shown that an increased minimum wage lowers costs for programs like SNAP by ensuring more families do not need to rely on public programs. It also stands to reason that an increased minimum wage will increase tax revenue as it raises income for working families.

**9. What are your views on a single-payer health care system?**

As a candidate, the President made clear that he does not support a single-payer health care system. If confirmed, I am committed to working with the Congress to expand health coverage and lower health costs by building on the Affordable Care Act.

**10. What are your views on the "Green New Deal"?**

The President has his own plan to tackle the climate crisis and create millions of good-paying jobs by spurring innovation and investing in clean energy. He has made clear that climate change is an existential threat. In his first week in office, the President released several executive orders that mobilize the entire government to tackle the climate crisis. The President is committed to putting the necessary resources into reducing carbon pollution, improving the resilience of American's homes and businesses, and creating good paying, union jobs with the urgency needed to meet the demands of science and build back our economy better.

**11. Do you agree with Senator Sanders' proposals to cut defense spending? If so, by how much?**

The U.S. defense budget will form a critical part of the Administration's priorities to defend America and deter adversaries, support our servicemembers and their families, leverage alliances and partnerships, preserve America's technological edge, and bolster economic competitiveness. If confirmed, I will work with the Department of Defense on a principled approach to defense policy that recognizes its relationship to other elements of national power, such as diplomacy and a strong economy that supports the middle class.

**12. What specific taxes would you support to put in the mix for addressing debt and deficit issues?**

The President has proposed eliminating the tax expenditure of preferred tax rates on capital gains and dividend income for households earning over \$1 million. He has also proposed eliminating other tax expenditures, including 1031 like-kind exchanges, the carried interest loophole and tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs and profits overseas. If confirmed, I would work with Congress to address these issues.

**13. What is the "fair share" of taxes for individuals and corporations? Please specify the preferred percentage rates for each in your response.**

The President has proposed taxing capital gains and dividend income at ordinary tax rates for families earning over \$1 million. He has proposed rolling back the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduction in the ordinary tax rate on income above \$400,000 from 39.6% to 37% so that the highest earners contribute more of their fair share. He supports increasing high earners' compliance with existing tax law. He has proposed raising the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% and raising taxes on corporate profits hidden in tax havens. These specific reforms and the rest of the President's tax agenda promote fairness in the tax code while strengthening our fiscal position.

**14. The federal government spends trillions of dollars each year, yet accountability remains a problem. Your predecessors have worked, but not succeeded, in developing tools for Congress and the public to track federal spending. What steps do you believe OMB, the Administration, and Congress should take to ensure greater transparency in how taxpayer dollars are spent?**

Promoting accountability and transparency through the collection and use of accurate and timely data is essential to good government and an important element in building the public's trust. If confirmed, I commit to better understanding the steps that have been taken and how we can further increase spending

transparency and accountability moving forward, and I would look forward to working with Congress on these issues.

**15. As you know, OMB oversees the issuance of scores of new regulations. Do you believe regulatory reform is needed? If so, where?**

The President's Memorandum on Modernizing Regulatory Review directs OMB to conduct a process with the goal of producing a set of recommendations for improving and modernizing regulatory review. In this process, OMB will ask the agencies to focus on how the regulatory process can promote public health and safety, economic growth, social welfare, racial justice, environmental stewardship, human dignity, equity, and the interests of future generations. If confirmed, I look forward to sharing with Congress the recommendations that come from this process.

**16. If confirmed, would you commit to ensuring that small business owners and other hardworking Americans are not burdened by excessive federal regulations?**

Yes. OMB should oversee a regulatory process that meets the needs of the citizens of the country, including small business owners. That process must assess the economic impact of rules but also understand how rules affect all parties.

**17. Should Congress eliminate the use of Changes in Mandatory Programs in appropriations bills? Why or why not?**

Changes in mandatory programs, or CHIMPs, have been enacted annually in appropriations bills for several years due to constraints of the budget caps. There can be programmatic reasons to make changes to mandatory programs on annual basis in the annual appropriations bills. However, many enacted CHIMPs do not result in actual spending reductions. Under current scoring rules, reductions in budget authority from such CHIMPs can be used to offset appropriations in other programs.

The Administration supports clear and transparent budgeting and recognizes that the use of CHIMPs distorts the overall picture of Federal spending. However, roughly \$26 billion in CHIMP offsets were included in the 2021 appropriations bills. Discontinuing these offsets should not result in unnecessary reductions in important non-defense discretionary programs. If confirmed, I would work with Congress on a solution that would eliminate opaque budgeting gimmicks while continuing to ensure investments in non-defense discretionary programs continue to be made.

**18. Should Congress restore the use of earmarks? Why or why not?**

I recognize that many members of Congress believe that the earmark ban deprived them of a positive tool to demonstrate local, tangible accomplishments to their constituents. The Administration has not taken a position on recent discussions by the Congress to restore the use of earmarks. If confirmed, I would work with this Committee on policies that encourage bipartisanship and ensure that appropriated funds are directed to activities that have a legitimate and worthy public purpose, should Congress decide to restore the use of earmarks.

**19. Should Congress eliminate the debt ceiling? Why or why not?**

In its current form, the debt limit is separate from the spending and revenue decisions that actually determine the need for additional borrowing. Yet, reaching the debt limit continues to cause crises for our Government, threatening our ability to provide essential benefits and services and risking default on the Nation's debt. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Congress on options to address the debt limit to avoid risk of default.

- 20. Will you commit to giving the Budget Committee at least two months advance notice of the use of new scoring models, such as ones that newly include behavioral effects, that are likely to change a score for a particular bill or proposal by more than 50%?**

This Administration is committed to transparency, and the Administration's analysis and decisions will always be guided by facts and data. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to ensure that the Administration's budget estimates are clearly and transparently communicated.

Questions for the Record

from Senator John Kennedy

for Shalanda Young

Budget Confirmation Hearing for Shalanda Young

March 2, 2021

Senate Budget Committee

**Question #1: We have a current federal debt of \$22.8 trillion. Just last week my Democrat colleagues decided to pass a budget resolution allowing for \$29.9 trillion in debt for FY21 up to over \$41 trillion in debt for FY30. Our entire 2020 GDP was \$20.93 trillion. This budget resolution allows the federal government to take on debt that is double our entire 2020 economy. With President Biden enacting executive orders to eliminate good paying Louisiana energy jobs, do you think it's wise to mortgage our country's future like this?**

Right now, the economic and public health crises that we face demand that we use every tool at our disposal to respond effectively. The risk of doing too little far outweighs the risk of doing too much, as economists across the political spectrum have emphasized.

Debt does matter to a nation's long-term economic health. However, I am persuaded by the many respected economists who now argue that there is likely not a specific threshold at which debt becomes unreasonable. It is the case that over the past fifteen years, even as our debt level has increased dramatically, interest rates and therefore interest costs have declined substantially. If confirmed, I will carefully monitor the economic factors that have driven interest rates lower to ensure we are on a fiscally sustainable path. Over the long term, underlying fiscal challenges remain. The aging of the population, rising health care costs, and a tax code that does not generate sufficient revenue combine to produce a long-term trajectory that should give us all pause. These are challenges that I hope we can work in a bipartisan basis to address.

**Question #2: In 2012, Greece had a debt-to-GDP ratio of 160 percent leading creditors to accept 25 cents on the dollar; a 27.9 percent unemployment rate; and a barely functioning banking system. Obviously the United States isn't Greece, but the chairman's budget allows for an even greater debt-to-GDP ratio than what led Greece into a depression-style recession within the last decade. When was the last time a government spent itself into prosperity?**

The Congressional Budget Office projects a 2031 debt-to-GDP ratio of 107%. Right now, the economic and public health crisis we face demands that we use every tool at our disposal to respond effectively. The risk of doing too little far outweighs the risk of doing too much, as economists across the political spectrum have emphasized. It is the case that over the past fifteen years, even as our debt level has increased dramatically, interest rates and therefore interest costs have declined substantially. Only by defeating the virus and restoring our economy to normal levels can federal tax revenue return to trend, which in turn will reduce the deficit.

Over the longer term, underlying fiscal challenges remain. The aging of the population, rising health care costs, and a tax code that does not generate sufficient revenue combine to produce a long-term trajectory that should give us all pause. These are challenges that I hope we can work in a bipartisan basis to address.

**Question #3 OMB plays a key role in approving State Spend plans that are submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As I mentioned to your predecessor last summer, OMB has often been a roadblock for states who wish to provide direct payments to affected parties. Do you support allowing Louisiana to make direct payments to fishers harmed during the Bonnet-Carre Fishery Disaster as part of the state's spend plan?**

States have flexibility in how they propose to use their NOAA fishery disaster assistance, and direct payments are an allowed use. In addition to direct payments, States may fund activities such as research, habitat restoration, and fishery-related infrastructure improvements.

**Question #4 The Morganza to the Gulf project has a long history all the way back to 1992. It was finally authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and just last month it received the first \$12.5 million of federal funding. If you are confirmed, and as a native Louisianan, can I get your assurance that OMB will not hold up any future funding for this project?**

I understand the goal of this project is to provide critical storm protection to the State of Louisiana. If confirmed as the Deputy Director of OMB, I look forward to learning more about this project and its budgetary requirements.

**Question #5 As the previous chairman of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee on the Appropriations Committee, I made it a priority to increase funding for, and make the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council an independent entity. Unfortunately, it has a sunset in December 2022. If confirmed, will you work with Congress to remove this sunset and help make the Permitting Council a permanent, independent entity?**

The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council plays an important role in promoting an efficient, effective, and transparent permitting process for large and complex infrastructure projects. A rigorous and coordinated permitting process is essential for ensuring that the environmental impacts of infrastructure projects can be fully considered. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress on this important issue.

Questions for the Record

From Senator Ron Wyden

For Shalanda D. Young

**Nomination of Ms. Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana,  
to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget**

**March 2, 2021**

**Question #1 Federal law obligates the U.S. Army to clean up a former weapons storage depot in eastern Oregon, but the Army told me last year that it had run out of money and did not plan to request more. The recently-enacted National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 continues language requiring the Army to submit a plan to Congress by April 1, 2021, for finishing the cleanup at Umatilla within three years. As you work on assembling the budget request, will you review the budget to make sure these cleanup efforts are included in the Army's budget?**

The Army will continue to fund and complete the remaining environmental cleanup work at the former Umatilla Chemical Depot. The Army is drafting a plan for the cleanup that will be submitted to Congress next month as required by the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

**Question #2 The U.S. Coast Guard operates an air facility, or helicopter station, in Newport, Oregon. That helicopter saves lives every year because of its close proximity to Newport's deep-draft port and Oregon's largest commercial fishing fleet. As you review the budget, will you make sure it includes funds to continue operations across Coast Guard air facilities, including at Newport, Oregon?**

The Search and Rescue mission is one of the Coast Guard's and the Administration's highest priorities. The Budget will ensure that the Coast Guard has adequate resources to perform the search and rescue mission in all regions of the country.

**Question #3 An October 2020 report by GAO into the implementation of the Open, Public, Electronic and Necessary (OPEN) Data Act of 2018 found that OMB had failed to issue the statutorily-required guidance for agencies to implement comprehensive data inventories required by the Act. Will you support efforts to implement the requirements of the OPEN Data Act, including helping to draft Phase II implementation guidelines to agencies and supporting the publication of the required reports on agency performance and compliance?**

I believe the OPEN Government Data Act encompasses a valuable set of tools for the development of evidence-based policies and ultimately the equitable delivery of government services. If confirmed as Deputy Director, I would commit to looking into the status of OMB's efforts to issue the required "Phase II" guidance implementing the OPEN Government Data Act.



**Question #4 GAO recommended that OMB, in collaboration with GSA, establish a policy to ensure the routine identification and correction of errors in agencies' electronically published performance information. Will you review this GAO recommendation and work on efforts to implement this recommendation?**

If confirmed as Deputy Director, I commit to looking into this recommendation and working with GAO to resolve it. I will consider a range of available options, including the "Phase II" guidance and the repository of tools, best practices, and schema standards, as I continue to work with GSA to improve processes associated with the Federal data catalogue and the reporting of agency performance and compliance with the Open Government Data Act.

**Question #5 Currently, OMB lacks specialty data on Tribes. OMB also lacks dedicated senior officials focused exclusively on tribal needs. Changes to both would allow for the improvement of budgeting for tribal programs. Will you commit to supporting efforts to address these data deficiencies across OMB and work to identify senior level staff to address generational funding and regulatory issues within our tribal programs?**

Honoring our Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribal Nations is an important priority of the administration, and if confirmed I can commit to giving significant attention to issues impacting tribal communities. In particular, my priorities will include supporting the efforts to address tribal data deficiencies and identifying senior level OMB staff to work on funding and regulatory issues related to tribal programs.

**Question #6 The Office of Management and Budget created the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) to classify all occupations in which work is performed for pay or profit. The SOC currently classifies 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers as clerical workers and not as protective service workers. Some of us in Congress support legislation to correct the SOC to reflect the important role these professionals play in offering critical emergency medical instruction and direct emergency response efforts, or the toll this work takes on their mental and physical health. Will you look into this issue and review any authorities OMB leadership may have to reclassify 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers in the SOC?**

OMB develops and maintains the Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) under its statistical policy and coordination functions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal statistical system. The SOC was most recently revised in 2018. This revision was informed by a set of interagency technical experts who reviewed the SOC with the goal of ensuring independence and objectivity for these statistical standards. As with all of OMB's statistical standards, these standards are reviewed keeping only statistical purposes in mind. If confirmed, I will commit to ensuring the objectivity and integrity of OMB's statistical standards.

Questions for the Record

From Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

For Shalanda D. Young

Nomination of Ms. Shalanda D. Young

to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget

March 2, 2021

**Question #1** As you can see in the attached chart, in February 2021 CBO projected that federal health spending over the next decade will be \$6 trillion lower than CBO's 2010 estimates extrapolated out to this budget window. While a portion of the difference in health care spending relates to the repeal of the individual mandate and other policy changes, much of it appears to result from a sustained slowdown in health spending growth in recent years. CBO has noted "that although a significant amount of research has been conducted to identify the causes of the slowdown in the growth of federal health care spending, a definitive conclusion has not been reached."

- a. **What will the Biden administration, and specifically what will you at OMB, do to better understand the causes of the sustained slowdown in federal health care spending?**

If confirmed, I will work across the Executive branch to better understand federal health care spending trends and dynamics to better inform our policy processes with the goal of achieving and sustain reductions in federal health care spending.

**Question #2** I think the slowdown is evidence that structural changes in the delivery of care – many of which were ushered in by the Affordable Care Act – have taken hold and we are seeing lower federal spending as a result. For example, Coastal Medical in Rhode Island, a Medicare Accountable Care Organization, has saved Medicare over \$30 million over five years, and has done so while increasing services and improving the quality of care their patients receive.

- a. **Do you agree that ACOs and other alternative care models have the potential to reduce federal health expenditures?**

The Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) and accountable care organization (ACO) models have shown the ability to reduce Federal health expenditures and improve or preserve beneficiary quality of care. For example, MSSP generated over \$2.2 billion in net savings to the Medicare program between 2017-2019.

- b. **What delivery system reforms will the Biden administration advance to lower health care spending?**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) tests, evaluates, and expands as appropriate, payment and service delivery models that are expected to reduce costs, improve quality, or achieve both these objectives. To date, three demonstrations implemented by the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation have been certified as reducing federal expenditures by the CMS Office of the Actuary, including the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program, Pioneer Accountable Care Organization demonstration, and Home Health Value-based Purchasing demonstration. If confirmed, I would support the Administration's mission to reduce healthcare spending growth through innovative delivery system reforms and would look forward to working with Congress on supporting reforms laid out in the President's Budget and otherwise pursued based on the results of the many models being tested.

**Question #3 President Biden's January 20, 2021 executive order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis creates an inter-agency working group on the social cost of carbon co-chaired by the director of OMB. It tasks the working group with, among other things, determining in which types of decision-making the social cost of carbon should be used. Please share with me your thoughts as to how the social cost of carbon might be used in agency rulemaking, budgeting, grant making, and procurement.**

The SC-GHG estimates are a tool for understanding the impacts of changes in greenhouse gas emissions in monetary terms. E.O. 13990 also calls on the interagency working group to provide recommendations regarding other areas of policy decision-making, budgeting, and procurement by the Federal Government where the SC-GHG estimates should be applied. One of the IWG's tasks will be to provide comprehensive recommendations on the appropriate use of the SC-GHG estimates in other applications beyond regulatory analysis. If confirmed, my goal would be to ensure that OMB complies with this obligation under EO 13990 and works to ensure that the policy decisions in the federal government take climate change into account in appropriate ways.

**Question #4 The IMF estimates that annual fossil fuel subsidies in this country alone total more than \$600 billion annually. Would you agree that until we eliminate or at least greatly reduce this massive negative externality, it is going to be difficult to transition to a low carbon economy?**

A mere seven days after taking office, President Biden issued E.O. 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. Section 209 of E.O. 14008 directs agencies to work with the Director of OMB to identify fossil fuel subsidies and ensure that Federal funding is not directly subsidizing fossil fuels. If confirmed, I look forward to assisting the Director in carrying out that order – helping to transition to a low carbon economy while creating good paying jobs in energy communities.

**Question #5 Economists, central bankers, financial regulators, investors, and business people around the world have recognized that climate change poses systemic risks to financial stability and the world economy. Can our economy afford inaction on climate? Given the effect that financial shocks have on the real economy and on federal revenues and expenditures, can the federal government afford inaction on climate?**

No, we cannot afford inaction on climate. The climate crisis presents not only a threat to human health and the environment, but significant and systemic fiscal risks in communities and organizations across the United States. Increased impacts of severe weather events and wildland fires, strains on natural

resources, and global security stressors will impede economic production and diminish governments' abilities to adjust to these stressors. I support President Biden's government-wide approach to bolster programs and activities that strengthen our ability to better understand, account for, and address the fiscal risks of climate change.

**Question #6 According to CBO, in 2020 alone, tax spending—in the form of credits, deductions, exclusions, and other loopholes—was projected to exceed more than \$1.8 trillion. That's more than the \$1.1 trillion we spent on all of the federal health care programs combined in 2019.**

- a. Would you agree that as we look for ways to support public investments and reduce the deficit, it makes sense to review tax expenditures?**

Yes. Tax expenditures result in significant loss of revenue for the Federal Government, and I wholeheartedly agree that it makes sense to review these and other tax expenditures that favor the wealthy. As one example, the President has proposed eliminating the tax expenditure of preferred tax rates on capital gains and dividend income for households earning over \$1 million. As another example, the President has proposed eliminating 1031 like-kind exchanges, another tax expenditure that nearly exclusively benefits the wealthiest Americans. Tax expenditures are akin to government spending and should be considered alongside traditional spending programs with similar goals when the Government decides how to invest its limited resources in the economy.

**Question #7 The nation's 600 billionaires have seen their wealth soar by over \$1 trillion during the pandemic. Many large corporations continue to earn record profits. Meanwhile, millions of Americans have been devastated by the economic fallout.**

- a. Do you support raising revenue from high-income taxpayers and profitable corporations to pay for long-overdue investments in clean energy and infrastructure?**

It is OMB's role to take a holistic view of the Federal budget. As such, raising revenue from high-income taxpayers and profitable corporations will promote fairness in the tax code and help fund priorities across the spectrum of federal investments, including but not limited to clean energy and infrastructure. To this end, the President has proposed taxing capital gains and dividend income at ordinary tax rates for families earning over \$1 million and rolling back TCJA's reduction in the ordinary tax rate on income above \$400,000 from 39.6% to 37%. President Biden also supports increasing high earners' compliance with existing tax law. For corporations, he has proposed raising the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% and raising taxes on corporate profits hidden in tax havens.

- b. Are there specific reforms that President Biden supports to restore fairness to the tax code while also supporting critical public investments and addressing budget deficits?**

President Biden is committed to restoring fairness to the tax code while addressing the deficit through a variety of proposals. Furthermore, closing unjustified tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy and large corporations is a cornerstone of the President's policy agenda. The President

has proposed modifications to tax expenditures that predominantly benefit the wealthy including eliminating the tax expenditure of preferred tax rates on capital gains and dividend income for households earning over \$1 million, eliminating 1031 like-kind exchanges, eliminating the carried interest loophole, and raising taxes on corporate profits hidden in tax havens. The President also supports increasing the top marginal tax rate from 37% to the pre-TCJA level of 39.6%. President Biden has also proposed to expand tax compliance measures to ensure that high-income taxpayers comply with existing tax law.

Questions for the Record

From Senator Merkley

For Shalanda Young

Nomination of Ms. Shalanda Young, of Louisiana,  
to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget

March 2, 2021

**Question #1: Will you commit to working with the President to direct all agencies to ensure that display of gender information on federal ID cards or similar documents - (1) is reviewed as part of regular Information Collection Reviews and Privacy Impact Assessments, as required by law, and (2) enables individuals to self-select an M, F, or X designation that is most appropriate for them?**

Yes, I will commit to working with the President on this issue.

**EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATION OF MS. SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

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**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021**

U.S. SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
*Washington, D.C.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:37 p.m., in Room S-207, The Capitol, Hon. Bernard Sanders, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Sanders, Murray, Wyden, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Warner, Merkley, Kaine, Van Hollen, Luján, Padilla, Graham, Grassley, Crapo, Toomey, Johnson, Braun, Sasse, and Romney.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN BERNARD SANDERS**

Chairman SANDERS. Okay, ladies and gentlemen.

I call the Committee meeting to order.

The question before the Committee is the nomination of Shalanda Young to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The past 14 years, Ms. Young has served as a top staffer on the House Appropriations Committee and has done an excellent job working with Democrats and Republicans on legislation that must be passed each and every year that impacts the lives of tens of millions of Americans. There is no doubt that she is highly qualified for this position and I strongly support her nomination.

Senator Graham, would you like to make a speech on this issue?

**OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM**

Senator GRAHAM. Yes, it will take 2 or 3 minutes.

The bottom line is Senator Shelby tells me she has been great to work with on budget matters and appropriations. But the statement that she gave in response to Senator Hawley's question about the Hyde Amendment is troubling to many of our members.

So I am going to vote yes with the understanding she has to answer one additional question. She said in her statement that she would follow the law. I think every regulation in the country comes across her desk and I want her to assure me that if there is a regu-

lation proposed by the Biden administration that changes Hyde or chips away at it that the statutory provisions prevail.

So I am going to vote yes, Mr. Chairman, with that understanding. And if she does not give the right answer, I am going to change my vote.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. Do we have a quorum present? I think we do. I note that a quorum is present and urge a yes vote on this nomination.

We will vote that the Committee report the nomination to the Senate with a recommendation that the nominee be confirmed.

The clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Ms. Murray.

Senator MURRAY. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Wyden.

Senator WYDEN. Aye.

The CLERK. Ms. Stabenow.

Senator STABENOW. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Whitehouse.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Merkley.

Senator MERKLEY. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Van Hollen.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Luján.

Senator LUJÁN. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Padilla.

Senator PADILLA. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Graham.

Senator GRAHAM. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Grassley.

Senator GRASSLEY. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Crapo.

Senator CRAPO. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Toomey.

Senator TOOMEY. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Johnson.

Senator JOHNSON. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Braun.

Senator BRAUN. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Scott.

Senator GRAHAM. No by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Sasse.

Senator SASSE. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Romney.

Senator ROMNEY. No.

The CLERK. Mr. Kennedy.

Senator GRAHAM. No by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Cramer.

Senator GRAHAM. Yes by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Warner.

Senator WARNER. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Chairman.



Chairman SANDERS. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 14 and the nays are eight.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you all.

As information for all Senators, statements for the record are due by 12:00 noon tomorrow, with signed hard copies delivered to the Committee Clerk in Dirksen 624. Emailed copies will also be accepted due to our current conditions.

With no further business before the Committee, this meeting is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:40 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

