

**NOMINATIONS OF THE HONORABLE
SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA,
TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE
HONORABLE NANI A. COLORETTI, OF
CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIREC-
TOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGE-
MENT AND BUDGET**

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
UNITED STATES SENATE
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

February 1, 2022—HEARING ON THE NOMINATIONS OF THE HONORABLE SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE HONORABLE NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

February 9, 2022—EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF THE HONORABLE SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE HONORABLE NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET



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**HEARING ON THE NOMINATIONS OF THE
HONORABLE SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOU-
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OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE
HONORABLE NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALI-
FORNIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:37 p.m., via Webex and in Room SH-216, Hart Senate Office Building, Hon. Bernard Sanders, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Sanders, Murray, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Merkley, Kaine, Van Hollen, Padilla, Graham, Grassley, Crapo, Toomey, Braun, Scott, Romney, and Cramer.

Staff Present: Warren Gunnels, Majority Staff Director; and Nick Myers, Republican Staff Director.

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN SANDERS

Chairman SANDERS. All right. Okay. Apologies for being late, and let me thank those of you who are here for being here.

This afternoon we will be hearing from Ms. Shalanda Young and Ms. Nani Coloretti, who have been nominated by President Biden to serve as the Director and Deputy Director, respectively, of The Office of Management and Budget (OMB). And I want to thank both Ms. Young and Ms. Coloretti for appearing before us today, and thank you both for your many years of public service. And thank you to your friends and family members who you have brought with you today.

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, very important task, and I know that both of you are more than capable of leading OMB.

Since last March, Ms. Young has been serving as Acting Director of OMB, so she is already doing the job for which she is nominated. So she has some real-life experience behind her as we discuss her application today.

Prior to her start at OMB, Ms. Young served for 14 years as a top staffer on the House Appropriations Committee, where, by all

accounts, she did an excellent job working with Democrats and Republicans on legislation that must be passed each and every year that impacts the lives of every American.

Ms. Coloretti has more than two decades of experience in public service. She previously served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and several positions at the U.S. Treasury Department, where, among other duties, she helped stand up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Prior to that she was the Policy Director and later Budget Director for the Mayor's Office in San Francisco.

Again, the Senate has previously confirmed both of these nominees to high-ranking positions in the past on strong bipartisan votes, and I hope and expect we will do so again in short order.

This is our first Budget Committee hearing of 2022, and we are facing many challenges as a nation, as I think everybody knows, and certainly challenges that our nominees are familiar with. We have now entered year three of the pandemic, as thousands of Americans continue to die from COVID every single day and hospitals continue to be overwhelmed with patients.

In my view, we are moving toward an oligarchic form of society where the people on top have incredible wealth and power while most Americans are struggling to pay their bills. We have a dysfunctional health care system which costs us more than any other country, and yet we have over 90 million people who are uninsured or underinsured, and we pay the highest prices in the world for our prescription drugs. And among other things, climate change is an existential threat to the existence of the planet. Other than that, not much.

Bottom line, I think we can all agree, although our solutions may be different, this country faces enormous problems.

So with that I would say that I have been impressed by the work that Ms. Young has done and look forward to supporting her. And now let me give the gavel over to Senator Graham.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR GRAHAM

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. To both of our nominees, congratulations. Ms. Young, you are well known to the Committee, particularly those of us on Appropriations, and I have always enjoyed working with you. Ms. Coloretti—is that right, Ms. Coloretti?

Ms. COLORETTI. Coloretti.

Senator GRAHAM. Coloretti.

Ms. COLORETTI. Yeah.

Senator GRAHAM. So I think you are both well qualified. You might talk me out of voting for you, but I doubt it.

But I do want to talk about a few things that I think are important to your jobs. Number one, climate change is real and I would like to do something about it, but there are a lot of threats out there. This is a chart of just some of the problem areas of the world. If you are Israel, Iran is definitely an existential threat to you. They want to kill all the Jews. I do not know why they want to do that, but that is what they keep talking about. And I think they would if they could. But it is not just the Jewish state. They would go after a lot of folks in the Muslim faith to purify the faith

and make it in their own image of their formal radical Shi'ism, and they would kill all of us because we do not agree with them religiously.

So I just want to highlight, in this chart behind me, North Korea, China, Russia, Ukraine, the rise of ISIS back in Syria, the debacle in Afghanistan. I do not think I ever remember a time this dangerous, maybe since the 1930s.

So from our point of view, we believe that President Biden's 2022 defense budget called for 1.6 percent increase in spending—that is well below inflation—with almost a 16 percent, I think, increase in non-defense spending. Now those priorities are just out of sync with the world as we know it.

The number one job of the Federal Government, to me, is to defend our nation, and the Biden budget has defense spending below inflation, well below inflation. And the National Defense Strategy Commission, a nonpartisan commission of defense experts, unanimously agreed that in order to deter China and Russia that the United States would need to increase defense spending by 35 percent in real growth. That would be above inflation. And failing to increase would make it necessary to alter the expectations of the U.S. defense strategy and our global strategic objectives, which is, I think, a bad idea.

So the budget, if adopted, would put us at 2.5 percent of GDP on national security, which is in the historically low arena.

So we are negotiating, Democrats and Republicans, about trying to use the appropriations process, not the continuing resolution process, to fund the government. I think people on our side are going to be very insistent that the defense number meet the reality that we face, as a world and as a nation.

So having said that, your job at OMB will be to kind of ride herd over the regulatory side of government, will be to advise the President and run the office, and I think you are both very capable people. Whatever differences we have, you know, will be honestly held, and I just want to use my time, Mr. Chairman, to focus on trying to get us, as a body, working with the Administration to top-line numbers for budget purposes, to appropriate rather than a continuing resolution, that is just a terrible way to run the Department of Defense. And I hope that the two ladies in front of us, if they get these jobs, can help us in that process.

So with that I will yield back.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much.

Is Senator Murray available for an introduction for Ms. Young?

Okay. If not, Senator Cramer, do you want to introduce Ms. Young?

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE KEVIN CRAMER, A UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Senator CRAMER. Well, I would be honored to. I hope I am not stepping on Senator Murray's toes by going ahead of her, but what the heck. Senator Kennedy is not even here and he is from Louisiana, and I am from little old North Dakota. But I think it speaks volumes to what relationship means. It is not geographic. It is relationship.

And I want to say, first of all, Mr. Chairman, you did an excellent job with Ms. Young's credentials. You did not mention that she is a new mom, which is probably the greatest credential of all time, and congratulations on that.

I just want to add a couple of insights, having worked with Director Young in this last year. As you pointed out, she has been confirmed to be the Deputy but has served as the Acting Director. And that, in and of itself, is challenging enough, but on top of that, of course, we have this other thing going on, this pandemic, and all these other issues, workforce scattered about, working as best they can remotely. All big challenges, and she has met them all.

I have found Shalanda to be smart, extremely witty. In fact, I would suspect, in a witty-off, you would beat the Ranking Member, I am pretty sure. But hopefully he will still vote for you.

She is classy, and here is what I love as much as anything. Mr. Chairman, you talked about her role as a staff lead in the House, in the Appropriations Committee, and that is where I first, of course, learned about her good work.

What has impressed me so much and what I have seen in practice as well as in words is that she has not just an understanding of the legislative process but a real respect for the institution. And that means a lot. That makes all of us better at our jobs, including the folks at OMB.

I can tell you, from first-hand experience, that in my now 10 years, roughly, in Congress, I have never worked with a budget director that was as attentive, that was as understanding, that could drill down as deeply on specific issues, and actually took the time to do it, as Director Young has. We have a couple of major water infrastructure projects in North Dakota that have been authorized many times but never really dealt with appropriately by OMB, and they have now, and I thank you for that.

She immediately responded to our concerns about metropolitan statistical area definitions, something that, you know, when you come from a small state with small cities, really matters. Even on manufacturing regulations, when we had a question or concern that was raised, her and her staff got right on it.

And I do not know that you could ask for anything more or anything better from somebody who directs an agency as large and as important as OMB. And for those reasons and a whole bunch of others I am, first of all, greatly touched and honored that you would ask me to introduce you, Shalanda, and it is my great pleasure to do that.

And, Senator Graham, there is nothing she could do today to get me to vote against her.

Senator GRAHAM. She may withdraw her nomination, actually.

Senator CRAMER. She is very witty. I warn you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Cramer.

I think Senator Murray is not yet available so we are going to go to Senator Padilla for his introduction of Ms. Coloretti.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ALEX PADILLA, A UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Graham. I am proud to introduce President Biden's outstanding nominee to be the Deputy Director of OMB. Nani Coloretto is a lifelong advocate for economic opportunity and the needs of working families. She spent more than a decade of her career as a public servant in the city and county of San Francisco, rising to become San Francisco's Budget Director in the office of then-Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Ms. Coloretto is an experienced leader in the Federal Government as well. She joined the Treasury Department in 2009, as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget. In that role she helped to shape the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Her record of success led to her appointment as an Assistant Secretary for Management at the Treasury Department, where she oversaw and modernized a workforce of hundreds of public servants managing our economic recovery.

In 2014, President Obama nominated Ms. Coloretto to serve as Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. She drew on her long experience and relationships in local government to not only improve public housing but to do so through community partnerships, while prioritizing equity at the same time.

Currently Senior Vice President at the Urban Institute, Ms. Coloretto is an insightful advocate for public policies that will help more families achieve their American dreams. She is a proven skillful manager and empathetic leader. She is highly qualified to support the critical work of the Executive branch of our Federal Government as Deputy Director of OMB, and I urge the Committee to support her swift confirmation. Thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator, and you had eight seconds remaining.

I believe that Senator Murray is now available for an introduction of Ms. Young. Senator Murray, are you there?

[No response.]

Chairman SANDERS. Senator Murray? Ah, there you are.

You are on mute. Mute, mute, mute. How many times in the last two years have people said that, "You are on mute"? All right. I say it one more time.

Senator GRAHAM. You need to say it louder.

Chairman SANDERS. You are on mute. Sign language. Mute. [Laughter.]

Chairman SANDERS. We cannot hear you.

[Pause.]

Chairman SANDERS. All right. See, this is one of the many reasons we all hope to God this pandemic is behind us.

All right. Senator Murray will, I am sure, be back. But why don't we, in the meantime, swear our two nominees in.

Under the rules of the Committee, nominees are required to testify under oath. Ms. Young and Ms. Coloretto, please rise.

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

Ms. YOUNG. I do.

Ms. COLORETTI. Yes.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you. And will you also 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.

Ms. COLORETTI. Yes.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you. Please be seated.

One last try for Senator Murray.

Senator MURRAY. Can you hear me yet?

Chairman SANDERS. We hear you very loudly.

Senator MURRAY. Okay. For the record it was not me. It was the Committee staff. Bless their souls.

Chairman SANDERS. All right. You are actually now too loud. Tone it down a little bit.

Senator MURRAY. Yeah. I was using my preschool yell at you boys, but okay. Can you hear me now?

Chairman SANDERS. That is great. Okay.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE PATTY MURRAY, A UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Senator MURRAY. Well thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. I am really glad to be here today to provide a brief introduction of Shalanda Young and to express my strong support for her swift confirmation as OMB Director, a role she has filled already on an acting basis for the past year.

I have actually known Ms. Young for many years, many of us have. And we know Ms. Young for her expertise, her unmatched work ethic, and maybe, most importantly, a willingness and proven track record of bringing both sides, Republican and Democrat, together to get things done for the American people.

When we talk about appointing good people in government, people who will do the work, we are all talking about Shalanda Young. Any Senator who has worked on any major spending bill during Ms. Young's tenure on the House Appropriations Committee have seen she knows the budget process inside and out.

Ms. Young would also make history as the first Black woman to lead the Office of Management and Budget, bringing a really important perspective as we work to build an economy that really works for everyone in this country.

And on that note I think it is important to mention that Ms. Young is a brand-new mom. Working moms have felt some of the worst of this pandemic. At a time when a full-blown childcare crisis is happening and the lack of a strong national paid leave policy, it has been especially hard for our working moms, forcing many of them to turn down extra hours or promotions, or even quit entirely. I cannot think of anything more appropriate than putting a working mom in charge of America's budget.

Mr. Chairman, we are facing more challenges than almost any time I can remember—COVID-19, an ongoing threat to our public health and our economy. The pandemic has shone a light and worsened so many longstanding challenges like childcare and the cost of housing. And we are seeing the effects and costs of the climate crisis in every part of this country.

We need a steady hand to help guide our economic recovery, and that person is Shalanda Young. Few people understand the Federal budget or appropriations process like Ms. Young, and even fewer have the benefit of her years of experience negotiating tough deals with both Republicans and Democrats. Let's waste no time in confirming her so she can keep working for the American people.

Thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Murray. And now let us hear from Ms. Young.

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE SHALANDA D. YOUNG, NOMINATED TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to thank Senator Murray and Senator Cramer for those wonderful words of introduction. You know, I will not promise you lunch other than the Senate dining room, but the two who introduced me today are testaments to relationships that can be built in this institution. Senator Cramer and I have gotten to know each other very well over the last year, working together, and the same with Senator Murray. So thank you both very much.

My family has found a new star, my daughter, so they are mostly home looking at her sleep and maybe watching me. But I want to thank my dad for escorting me here today as the lone person who drew the short stick, actually. She really is much cuter than watching me do this today. But I still want to thank my family, who has been a big support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today as President Biden's nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget. It has been my honor to serve the last 10 months as the Acting Director. I am grateful to the President for the trust he has put in me as his nominee.

When I first came before this Committee last March, I told you a little bit about my experience growing up in rural Louisiana. I talked about my years leading the House Appropriations Committee as its top staffer, serving this institution I care about so deeply, and I mean that. And I made a commitment to you that I would focus my service at OMB on restoring regular order, partnering with Congress in a spirit of bipartisanship and mutual respect, and delivering results for the American people.

Over the past 10 months, I have kept that commitment, working alongside the extraordinary team at OMB, and with members of this Committee from both sides of the aisle. I would like to briefly highlight just five of OMB's achievements that showcase what our team is capable of with the partnership of the Senate, and this Committee in particular.

First, together with Congress, we delivered crucial disaster relief funding for communities across the country, not only to respond to Hurricane Ida and last year's devastating wildfires, but to address unmet recovery needs from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Working with FEMA, we announced nearly \$5 billion last year to help communities prepare for and respond to extreme weather events. And with the help of Congress, we secured another \$4.5 billion through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to rebuild community resilience.

Second, we worked with members of both parties to help develop and enact the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, permanently authorizing the FAST-41 law, something I committed to get done during my confirmation hearings last March. And OMB is focused on implementing this law with the highest level of effectiveness and accountability.

Third, we stood up a new Made in America Office that has already facilitated billions of dollars in new purchases to support American manufacturing. The office has brought unprecedented transparency to the waiver review process, important progress that matters to many of us in this room. I am grateful that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expanded Made-in-America requirements to all Federal infrastructure funding and codified this important office at OMB so that it is around for future administrations.

Fourth, we took action to make the Federal Government more efficient, effective, and accountable to the public. Those steps include OMB's work to implement a new Executive order to streamline government services and improve customer experience, as well as much-needed progress on investing in IT modernization across the Federal Government.

And finally, in keeping with the President's longstanding commitment to oversight, we directed agencies to focus on two important areas: restoring the integrity and independence of their inspectors general and working with Congress to ensure that IGs can fulfill their mandate. I know that there are legitimate differences in this country, in this room, that deserve honest debate, and I have appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with many of you about them.

If confirmed, I will continue to work closely with you and your colleagues to deliver for the American people, and I will continue to find common ground, to be responsive, and to rebuild the career staff at OMB who play an essential role in ensuring our government works for all Americans, and that is across any administration.

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and other members of the Committee, thank you so much for allowing me to be here today. I look forward to taking your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Young appears on page 32]

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much. Now we will hear from Ms. Coloretti.

TESTIMONY OF THE HONORABLE NANI A. COLORETTI, NOMINATED TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Ms. COLORETTI. Thank you. Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and distinguished members of this Committee, it is a privilege to come before you as President Biden's nominee for Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I would like to thank the members of the Committee for considering my nomination and the many members who took the time to speak with me before this hearing. And thank you to Senator Padilla for his kind words of introduction.

I would also like to thank President Biden for putting his confidence in me, and it is a honor to be sitting here alongside my es-

teemed and hopefully potential future colleague, Shalanda Young. I am honored and humbled by this nomination.

I would also like to recognize my husband of 24 years, David Goldstein, who is here with me today, my son Kaleo Goldstein-Coloretti, who is supporting me virtually from college, and I would like to thank the many family members and friends watching this hearing from Hawaii to the East Coast.

Finally, I would like to recognize my parents, Tony and Marielani Coloretti, who both passed away over five years ago. It is through their sacrifices that I am able to sit here today.

My mom and dad both had immigrant parents who came to America in search of a better life for themselves and for their children. My parents worked hard to support my four sisters and me. My mom was a preschool teacher and then a home-based childcare provider, and my dad worked in restaurants and on cruise ships. Later on, I would also work in restaurants, which, along with Federal student loans and Pell grants, helped me finance my education.

My parents taught me to focus on hard work and education as well as the importance of curiosity and empathy. It is from them that I developed a passion for public service and a commitment to expanding opportunity for all.

I come before you today as a public servant and leader with over 25 years of experience in Federal, state and local government service and in the private and nonprofit sectors. Much of my work has focused on helping deliver better outcomes for people, families, and taxpayers. In fact, my first Federal service was as a program examiner at the Office of Management and Budget many, many years ago.

I know firsthand that OMB has a critical role to play in the implementing the President's priorities, touching every spending and policy decision in the Federal Government and collaborating across agencies to deliver results effectively and efficiently.

My work during the Obama-Biden administration, as Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and before that, as Assistant Secretary and Acting CFO for Treasury, focused on using data to make better decisions, implement new programs, and strengthen the organizations that I led.

At HUD, I managed the Department's day-to-day operations, facilitated cross-cutting policy and regulatory issues, and oversaw a budget of \$45 billion and approximately 8,000 employees. As Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Management and Acting CFO, I helped stand up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and helped create Treasury's quarterly data-driven decision framework to prioritize projects, align resources, and measure progress.

I also understand how budget and policy decisions made here in Washington D.C. affect local policy, having worked in San Francisco local government for 10 years. During the 2008 recession, I helped close a deficit worth half of San Francisco's discretionary budget, aided in the end by the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

If confirmed, I would be honored to work with the President and Congress to create and implement budgets that invest in the Amer-

ican people, support our economic recovery, and reflect our country's shared values.

Thank you again for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Coloretti appears on page 83]

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you both very much.

I give enough speeches so I am not going to give one today, but I just have a few questions that I would like to ask. As I think Senator Murray indicated, and I think we all agree with, although we come from different perspectives, this a very unusual moment in American history. People are struggling. The pandemic has wreaked havoc in so many ways, not only in terms of illness but in isolation, in the nature of employment. People are quitting jobs in record-breaking numbers.

So we are really in an unusual place in the modern history of this country, and one of the issues that has concerned me, and I think it does not get enough attention, is the growing gap between the very, very wealthy and everybody else. You have got two people now who own more wealth than the bottom 40 percent, and during this pandemic, billionaires have seen an increase in their wealth by \$2 trillion, just in the last few years.

So let me ask both of you, is that issue of massive income and wealth inequality something that concerns you, and what ideas do you have as to how we might go forward on that issue?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Sanders, I was proud to put President's budget forward, which spoke to this very issue. Four hundred billionaires own the same amount of wealth as 150 million of the poorest Americans. That is why you saw tax proposals from this President that sought to not only pay for the investments in a fiscally responsible way but also speak to this issue of fairness in our tax policy in this country.

Chairman SANDERS. Ms. Coloretti.

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, thank you for that question. I also support the President's ideas and as he has put them forward in his policies and in his budget. They aim to build this economy back from the bottom up and the middle out, both in tax policy and in investments in critical items like childcare, which we know will not only help working mothers go back to work but will also help increase the labor supply in this country. And we need to grow our economy and make it more productive.

Chairman SANDERS. Is it of concern to you that we are the only major country on Earth not to guarantee health care to all people as a human right, while we pay far more for health care than any other nation, and pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs? Is that an issue of concern?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, one of the key priorities for this President is to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for Americans. You saw the budget spoke to that. It is a price issue for the American people, and it is one thing we certainly hope to work with Congress on in the near future.

You are absolutely right. The cost of health care in this country is unsustainable. And as we talk about our full economic picture debt deficit, you cannot help but look at what it costs health care-

wise, in our Medicare and Medicaid system. So we have to do something to address that.

Chairman SANDERS. Ms. Coloretti.

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, I started my career in Federal service, as I mentioned, many, many years ago working on Medicaid and health financing issues at the Office of Management and Budget, and I was very proud to pass a small expansion of health care in the Children's Health Insurance Program, obviously in partnership with Congress.

So yes, I do support looking for ways to expand health care coverage and lower costs.

Chairman SANDERS. You know, I have heard many colleagues talk about how much they love America. Well, if you love America it seems to me you love the children who are the future of America. And yet for a very long time we have had the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth. We have tried, through the American Rescue Plan, to address that, with some success. Through the direct payments to working parents we reduced childhood poverty in this country by about 40 percent. That is no insignificant accomplishment.

What is your thought about childhood poverty and how we might address that issue?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, before I had a child, now especially maybe I am a bit sensitive to this, but as a developed country, as the leader of the free world, there is no issue, I think, more touching and something I hope we can all come together on in reducing childhood poverty. And you are absolutely right. The Child Tax Credit, by all estimation of economists, looks to have reduced childhood poverty by 40 percent, and that was a huge accomplishment for that program.

Chairman SANDERS. Ms. Coloretti.

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, I will just add to that. Another thing I worked on in San Francisco was providing universal preschool to all four-year-olds. And so I support the Administration's idea, and I think many of you support it as well, to provide universal pre-kindergarten for every three- and four-year-old in the country, and make childcare more affordable for working families.

I think, as I mentioned earlier, this is critical not just for working moms but for also—these investments, actually, are shown to pay off over time.

Chairman SANDERS. Right. Last question. We are the richest country in the history of the world and yet millions of senior citizens today have teeth that are rotting in their mouths, cannot afford the outrageous cost of hearing aids, cannot afford eyeglasses. Do you agree that hearing, vision, and dental care are essential parts of health care and that Medicare should be expanded to cover these basic health care needs?

Ms. YOUNG. Chairman Sanders, we spoke about this I believe at last year's hearings. That is why the President's budget supported providing hearing, vision, and dental coverage as part of Medicare expansion, and I was proud to come here and talk about that last year.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you. Ms. Coloretti?

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, just weighing in to agree.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. Thank you. Senator Graham.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Young, as a member of the Appropriations Committee staff, did you work on defense budgets?

Ms. YOUNG. I happened to be Staff Director, so all of them, defense included.

Senator GRAHAM. Yeah. So how do you see the world in terms of danger right now?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, it is hard to look at the news. It is hard to go to the job I have and not hear about the very changing global picture we see every day, especially with what is going on in eastern Europe.

Senator GRAHAM. Is that fair to say for you, do you agree with that, Ms. Coloretti?

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, just weighing in to agree.

Senator GRAHAM. Okay. So the point I am making is, if you look at President Biden's budget proposal and project it out to 2031, 2.5 percent of GDP spending on defense, that will be below what we were doing on September 10, 2001, before we were attacked. So I just think that is a very dangerous glidepath for our nation, and I will be working with people, you and others, to try to change that. So I do not want to, you know, make a bunch of speeches about defense other than we need a budget. Do you agree, we need a budget quickly, Ms. Young?

Ms. YOUNG. Sign me up for as quick as possible.

Senator GRAHAM. Okay. What about emergency supplemental? Do you think we need one of those too?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Graham, we are assessing everything from COVID to our situation in eastern Europe, and we clearly will be in contact if we think the resources are needed.

Senator GRAHAM. Well, I got contacted by the Administration about \$3.5 billion for Afghanistan to go to U.N. agencies, not the Taliban. Count me in for that, and I think the best way to do that is through an emergency supplemental. The World Food Program has been under siege because of COVID, and all kind of problems out there. We have got problems at home and abroad. So I think an emergency supplemental would be well utilized, and also to help the Ukraine.

As a matter of fact, if we did have an emergency supplemental, would you support designating foreign military financing for Ukraine as part of that package?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, you are looking at someone—I have visited Ukraine three times as a congressional staffer and know the issues very up close, and it is troubling by what we see there. So as you mentioned, we do not have a—

Senator GRAHAM. Are you inclined to support that?

Ms. YOUNG. Well, we do not have a regular appropriations bill so somewhere in one of those packages. I will not dictate to the appropriations leaders how they do it. We certainly support Ukraine aid.

Senator GRAHAM. Okay. Iron Dome. Eight months ago, President Biden promised to provide \$1 billion to replenish Israel's Iron Dome system following the barrage from missile attacks from

Hamas in Gaza. To this point in time the Administration has not yet formally requested the additional Iron Dome funding.

Do you know if that is going to happen? Do you support that happening?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Graham, I think the Department of Defense has been clear with congressional leadership that they support that backfilling of Iron Dome. The last legislative vehicle I understand is pending in the Senate, but we certainly—

Senator GRAHAM [continuing]. But you have not made a formal request of the Congress. Is that not accurate?

Ms. YOUNG. It is one of many things we have communicated through technical assistance to the Capitol. That is the normal way.

Senator GRAHAM. The sooner the better that we can get Iron Dome replenished, because the world, and that part of the world, is getting more dangerous. So I look forward to working with you on that.

We just passed a bipartisan infrastructure package that I voted for, and we had a lot of money for roads and bridges and ports. One of the things that bothers a lot of us, just not me, is that the Federal Highway Administration issued a memo recently that says—that runs counter to congressional intent by discouraging the use of Federal dollars by states for new highway capacity projects. In South Carolina, we need all the highways we can get.

What is your view about that memorandum?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I was not involved in that memorandum, and I am happy to take your concerns back and work with you to address any shortcomings.

Senator GRAHAM. Please do, because a lot of us who voted for that bill expected the states to have the flexibility they have had in the past to do, you know, appropriately what they need to do. In our state we do need more roads, and I appreciate if you could talk to people over at the highway department about that.

Finally, when do you expect that we will get the next budget?

Ms. YOUNG. As you know, Senator, the State of the Union is March 1. It is typical that the State of the Union would lead into a budget. So that is certainly our expectation, that you would see that normal course of interaction between the State of the Union and the budget.

Senator GRAHAM. And finally, do you agree with me that continuing resolution is really harmful to the Defense Department?

Ms. YOUNG. What does that say behind you, “The World is a Dangerous Place”?

Senator GRAHAM. Yeah.

Ms. YOUNG. So every two-week, every three-week increment is not the way to budget.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you so much.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Graham. Senator Murray.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Again, I am really pleased to have this opportunity to speak with both these great candidates today. Both of these women share a wealth of experience that they bring to these roles and the right skill sets that I believe we need.

I already spoke in strong support of Ms. Young's nomination. I also want to add my support for Ms. Coloretti's nomination. I know she brings a wealth of experience as well. I think this is going to be a great team leading OMB for really a critical time in our country's history.

On the COVID-19 response and economic recovery, some people thought we went too big last year when we wrote the American Rescue Plan, and I think it is plain to see today that is not the case. We have seen a stronger and much faster economic recovery because of the bill that the Democrats wrote and passed—6.4 million jobs back into the economy since a year ago.

But we do know there is more work to be done. We cannot recover from this crisis if we do not, at long last, take some bold steps to really help lower costs for families, like finding and affording quality childcare where they live, giving parents the opportunity to enroll their kids into preschool at no cost, making a landmark investment in climate action and clean energy, because we can see that that climate crisis is here and now, and reduce the cost of prescription drugs and housing and more.

We have proposals to address all of these that are long-term and fully paid for, that will actually cut the deficit over the time. So I wanted to ask both our nominees today if you can respond. What is the economic case for these strong and decisive proposals included in the Build Back Better, to put money back into people's pockets and make sure our economy works for us?

Ms. Young, I will start with you.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, Senator Murray. Look, I know these proposals are pending before Congress so I will just speak in macro benefits of those things and not necessarily the legislative vehicle. I will leave that to the experts here, sitting around the table.

But when you look at our economy you are absolutely right. It has grown the fastest clip last year since 1984, 5.7 percent economic growth, 3.9 percent unemployment, over 6 million jobs added.

But there is more to be done. I think people around the table are rightfully speaking about price pressures and people's pockets, and what better way to deal with those than to use government investment to bring down the cost of prescription drugs that they have to pay out of pocket to even stay healthy.

Childcare cost, to help the American people not spend more than 7 percent of their income on childcare. You cannot go to work without adequate childcare, as I am quickly finding out with a three-month-old. It is essential to the household.

So there is an economic case to these proposals, not just pandemic-related, but these were things that I would argue were deficits, that we need to come out better on the other side of this pandemic than when we entered it.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you. Ms. Coloretti?

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator Murray, I really appreciate this question. I think these proposals are aimed at building this economy—we have said it before so I will just say it again—from the bottom up and the middle out. And the effort to grow the economy and direct investments into people, so that they can actually become more productive and contribute to a growing economy. And I think that

the Biden administration, as I observe it from the outside, is directed in the right direction.

Senator MURRAY. Great. Thank you.

Look, I am really concerned we have not reached a deal to get this year's appropriations bill to the President's desk, and the clock is ticking. Ms. Young, can you speak to the importance of reaching a spending agreement for fiscal year 2022, and some of the consequences if we fail to do so?

Ms. YOUNG. Sometimes I find it hard to find the words to this question. It is so incredibly important. You just heard Senator Graham talk about the defense needs and the uncertainty in the world. We cannot address those by two-, three-week, four-week increments. It is a dangerous proposition.

The same if you go talk to your state and local governments who are waiting on critical grant funding. We do not do those in a CR, so it delays investments by your state and local.

So it really is paramount to get an appropriations deal done, and we stand willing, from the Administration's point of view, to help do what we need to do to bring that to fruition.

Senator MURRAY. Thank you. And quickly, before I close, I just want to raise two issues of critical importance to my home state of Washington. We have discussed these previously, Ms. Young, and the first is salmon recovery. And it is so important to restore these Pacific Northwest iconic salmon runs. We have got to continue our work on that.

And the second is the Federal Government's moral and legal obligation to clean up the Hanford nuclear site. So I want to tell you, I am going to be talking to you about this more, but we have got to make sure that Hanford is on a cost-effective trajectory, without compromising the cleanup mission. We have got a lot of work ahead there.

With that let me thank you both for being willing to do these. I look forward to working with the Chairman to get you confirmed as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

Senator TOOMEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Director Young and Ms. Coloretti, thank you for joining us today.

At your nomination hearing back in March of last year, Director Young, I asked you about the economic public health justification for spending about \$2 trillion in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) bill, which was devoted mostly to programs that had very little or nothing to do with COVID. It was really a partisan wish list, and that is how it was passed, after \$4 trillion on a bipartisan basis had been passed the previous years.

Well, the subsequent year has proven almost everything my Republican colleagues and I have warned about on that \$2 trillion ARP bill. Just by way of a quick review, it spent \$400 billion on universal government checks; \$200 billion on unemployment insurance plus-ups that paid recipients more not to work than they made working; \$126 billion to schools, regardless of whether or not they opened; \$97 billion for a bailout of union pension plans. The list goes on and on.

But the results, according to the CBO, was zero job growth above and beyond what they had anticipated would occur if you never passed the ARP. Oh, and COVID cases hit record highs. Oh, and we have the highest inflation in 40 years, and a whole lot more Federal debt.

Now you, Ms. Young, maybe have got to get a pass on ARP. I know you supported it and I am sure you still do. That was proposed and passed before you were confirmed. But now I am concerned that the policies being proposed have gotten worse. I mean, ARP was counterproductive, but at least it was temporary. The so-called Build Back Better bill, as proposed, would be the single most damaging domestic legislation in generations. It is clearly an attempt to make America's middle class dependent on the government, with this free universal preschool, free government-paid family leave, free government-funded childcare, free expanded child tax credits, expanded Obamacare subsidies—dramatic erosion of any sense of personal responsibility. Oh, and the largest tax hike since 1968, which would end up being paid for, to a very large degree, by American families, and make the U.S. spend it.

Now I understand, thankfully, that that is at least on pause right now, and I hope it actually goes on a permanent hiatus.

I want to zero in, for a minute, on a topic that you and the Ranking Member touched on briefly, and that is the provisions in the ARP that allocated \$350 billion for state and local governments to spend on pretty much anything remotely related to even responding to the pandemic. And what is so shocking about that is that it occurs despite the fact that state and local governments were not in any kind of fiscal crisis in 2020 or 2021. In fact, in the aggregate they were taking in all-time record high amounts of revenue, in 2020 even. I mean, we knew that in March of 2021.

And then in 2021, they shattered the record from 2020. And the increases were quite dramatic. In 2019, state and local governments took in a little over \$11 trillion. It was well over \$12 trillion by 2020. It was about an 11 percent increase. If you look at the first three quarters of 2019 and compare that to the first three quarters of 2021, it is a 27.5 percent increase in the tax revenue, which was already a record high level of revenue.

So what has the effect of that been? Well, states are just swimming in cash, literally. I mean, California reported a \$75 billion budget surplus for 2021. And as I predicted then, state have decided, well, they do not know really what to do with this money so they are cutting taxes. Even virtually bankrupt Illinois has a plan for a \$1 billion tax cut, and the governor there says that the state is in the best fiscal position it has been in in decades.

State and local governments have also chosen to waste some of this money, not knowing what else to do with it. We have Syracuse, New York, spending \$2 million to plant new trees. Norwich, Connecticut building luxury apartments. The City of Chicago has decided to spend \$31 million to create a guaranteed income program. It goes on and on.

Again, let me just recap. ARP sent \$350 billion to state and local governments after Congress had given about \$650 billion of extraordinary money—this is all above and beyond what we ordi-

narily send to the state and local governments—and that is all on top of absolute, all-time, record levels of revenue collections.

So when I hear about supplementals for more domestic spending I just want to state for the record there is no reason that Congress should be providing still billions more on top of the \$6 trillion it already did when there are hundreds of billions of dollars that remain unobligated and more money than state governments have ever even seen.

I do have a question I will send to you for the record regarding getting Federal workers back to work in the offices to deal with Social Security, VA, and the IRS backlog. I will send that as a question for the record.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Senator Whitehouse.

Senator STABENOW. Oh no. I am actually here, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. All right. Senator Stabenow.

Senator STABENOW. Thank you. I am actually here. I am sorry that the camera was turned off.

Thank you so much for the hearing. It is wonderful to see the two nominees in front of us, such wonderful, qualified nominees.

I do need, though, to just say something to correct the record from my colleague and friend who just spoke about the American Rescue Plan. I know that this was something every Democrat voted for and every Republican voted against, and so I understand that folks on the Republican side want to make it seem like it was the worst thing ever.

But the reality is this, that when President Biden took office there were 18 million people that were on unemployment insurance and now it is 2 million—18 million to 2 million. We helped businesses create 6 million jobs, the greatest year of job creation in American history. We have seen the best economic growth since 1984. We have seen the biggest single year drop in our unemployment rate in our nation's history.

And so we know that because of COVID-related challenges and supply chain breakdowns and so on there is so much more to do in lowering costs for people, but the record is very clear in terms of the robust economy and what is happening right now. We just need to keep it going.

Ms. Young, again, welcome, and Ms. Coloretti, it is wonderful to be speaking to you again. And I wanted to specifically start with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which includes a lot of provisions to ensure Federal purchasing and infrastructure spending, to make sure it is American-made products.

You know, we make a lot of things in Michigan. I hear a lot about that. We make things and grow things. I happen to think that we should be using American tax dollars to purchase those things. We were very fortunate to get a provision that I authored, along with Senator Braun, to solidify the Made in America Office's role within the Federal Government, and to have that now be law.

And so the office is now in charge of enforcing, Buy American laws and ensuring that tax payer dollars are used to uplift American manufacturing, hire our workers first, our small businesses

first, and shore up our domestic supply chains, which, we know are critical, we need to be making more things and then buying more things as a Federal Government, made in America.

So, Ms. Young, could you talk about the Made in America Office's role in implementing Buy American provisions from the infrastructure bill, and what resources the office needs to ensure that the implementation is done effectively? I know people in my state, and believe people in the country want very much to see this move forward aggressively and be successful.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you, Senator, and I want to thank you for your help codifying that office in the Infrastructure Law. We started that office in OMB through Executive order, and so was very happy that the bipartisan law ensured that it will be around for future administrations.

The President was very clear. Even before the infrastructure law, he gave us an edict around the table that we needed to look at the waiver process. The agencies almost, without thinking, issue waivers for Buy American provisions that you all worked on and passed, and this office and OMB are meant to ride roughshod over this process. It should not be just automatic. It needs to be justified. So we are trying to bring some rigor to that process, not just for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law but for all that we purchase. We talk about appropriations bills—\$1.5 trillion a year of basic annual spending, and a lot of the waivers are done through that process.

So our intention is to make things in America. If the pandemic showed us nothing, supply chains are vulnerable. We need to bring American manufacturing back, and that is one of the things the office will focus on now—I would say during its tenure, but now its tenure will hopefully be for the foreseeable future, now that you have helped codify it into law.

Senator STABENOW. Well, thank you. And I know I am just about out of time so I want to move to a different topic that each of you are welcome to comment on. But one of the things that we know from the COVID pandemic is that mental health and substance abuse issues have increased substantially, and they are going to linger, certainly, past the pandemic. In fact, between April of 2020 and April of 2021, more than 100,000 people died of a drug overdose, and we have so many other numbers that relate to young people and suicides and people who need mental health help.

And I have, as you know, been laser-focused with my colleague, Senator Roy Blunt, creating a system where health care above the neck is funded to help the same as health care below the neck. And we are now on the way to doing that with community behavioral health clinics.

And so I would ask for your support for these. I will not go through all the pieces, but we have all kinds of information about how this is successful in keeping people out of jail that do not need to be there, or the emergency room who do not need to be there, out of homeless shelters that do not need to be there. You know, we have got this program fully operationalized in 10 states right now, and 40 different states have startup grants. But 10 states are fully implementing this, and we need this across the country.

So I interested and urging you that the President's budget do even more. His first budget proposed a \$125 million increase in the startup grants. We need additional dollars for that, and we need to have the full expansion nationwide put in place.

So I would ask both of you if you would work with me, work with Senator Blunt in fully operationalizing this critical part of our health care system.

Ms. Young. We would love to work with you on any mental health proposals.

Ms. COLORETTI. Agree.

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

Senator BRAUN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the ARP Act we spent \$1.9 trillion, and I think 10 percent of that was aimed particularly at COVID relief. And I am curious, with all the money we have spent so far, it still astounds me that we are nearly \$30 trillion in debt and we are looking to borrow more money and spend more, regardless of the merits. I think there is a lot here that obviously we do need to address, but not in the way that we have done it, amassing that much debt into the system.

I would like to focus in—I have a question for Ms. Young. How much money is still out there in terms of what you think it is, what it really is that is unspent from what we have done already, and is that something that we should be looking at first before we actually tee up more money, especially when it comes to COVID relief items like masks and testing and so forth? I know the figure that I think has been given to the Committee. I would like to know what you think it is out there that is unspent funds that we could tap rather than, you know, spending more money for things where we have got the funds sitting, unused.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, we provided that information to the Committee at the request of you and several other Senators, so I am glad you have it. Ninety-seven percent of the funds pre-ARP have been obligated. As you mentioned, ARP was both direct COVID relief, the health care dollars. Most of that has been obligated or announced. That is what helped us get through the Omicron variant.

The money that is not obligated is something Senator Toomey talked about, state and local funding that represents most of the non-obligated funding. So the health care pieces is mostly gone, given the response we have had to do for Omicron. The other side of the table are the economic state and local money, and that is the majority of the funding left from ARP.

Senator BRAUN. And is it correct that if we focus on what the states have, that that figure is close to \$340 billion?

Ms. YOUNG. That sounds right, Senator.

Senator BRAUN. And then, even though that is in the states' coffers, would it not make sense that for those states that have unspent balances that we would ask them to spend through that first before we would give them more money, or we do something federally that might duplicate it?

Ms. YOUNG. Well, Senator, the point of state and local funding was to ensure that they could, at the state and local level, respond to the pandemic. So I would certainly hate to see us do that and another variant come up. We have also, while Omicron is extremely

contagious, I think we have gone through these variants with some level of success, and state and locals are utilizing these funds to also do mitigation efforts at their level. So we have to be careful about pulling money back before we know what the future twists and turns of this virus brings.

Senator BRAUN. Well, I think, just for anybody in the public that is listening, back in '08-'09, I think the total that we spent, when it was systemically something actually affecting the economy, not a health care crisis, in terms of how we were going to remediate it, called for all this spending. I think we spent \$800-\$900 billion. And, of course, we have spent \$4 trillion, another 2 with ARP, and then a lot more requests for more.

I guess, in a short period of time, hundreds of billions has become passé. And the other thing the public needs to know is the Fed has pretty well accommodated all that by putting that debt on their balance sheet. I think that is largely, you know, what is driving now what is not transitory but is somewhat of a stubborn inflation rate, 7 to 8 percent.

One other question. In December 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. The legislation included \$1.375 billion for the construction of border barriers. On the first day in office, President Biden signed a presidential proclamation to pause construction and funding for the border barrier.

Despite a continuing resolution, there is still an authorization and appropriation to build out that barrier. What will it take for the Administration to follow the law, and are there other issues where the Administration plans to ignore Congress?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I take the Impoundment Control Act as serious as anybody in this room. That is why GAO has found that this Administration has acted properly within the confines of that law and that we are obligating prudently. It may not be on what everyone thinks it should be, but we have environmental remediation to be done, we have gaps to be filled, we have returned billions of dollars to the Department of Defense where it belongs. So we are doing what we not only believe is responsible but GAO has validated that.

Senator BRAUN. So do you intend to spend the \$1.4 billion—

Ms. YOUNG. We are spending it—

Senator BRAUN [continuing]. On a border barrier?

Ms. YOUNG [continuing]. On utilized efforts. You can only spend it on certain things. We cannot even spend it on technology.

Senator BRAUN. That is what we authorized it for.

Ms. YOUNG. Yes. So we are spending it on what we are authorized to spend it on, and GAO has validated that.

Chairman SANDERS. Okay. Thank you, Senator Braun. Senator Whitehouse.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Chairman. Good afternoon, Director Young, Ms. Coloretti. Thanks for being here. I want to ask you a little bit about health care costs and then, if I have a moment, a little bit about climate costs.

On health care costs, the Budget Committee staff are going to give you a copy of this graph, which I have used before, and you may have seen before, and it charts that after the CBO health care

spend projection of 2010, something began to change. Actual Federal health care spending began coming in lower and lower and lower compared to what CBO had projected. And even with the added spend of COVID we are still below those projections.

And if you look forward, if you extrapolate CBO's projection forward and extrapolate forward from the actual, between now and the next decade, our budget period, there is \$6 trillion in health care savings that we have experienced, again, projected going forward.

And we do not exactly know why that is, but I very strongly believe that it has to do with accountable care organizations that we set up in Obamacare, the so-called Triple Aim delivery system reform, trying to make health care more patient-centered. All of those things that allow doctors to keep patients healthier rather than stay on the fee for service treadmill ends up saving money because a healthier patient does not cost as much in health care expense.

So what I would like to do is to make sure that in the years ahead you will both be keeping your eye on the ball of how we do more of whatever it is that has saved us the \$6 trillion while also providing healthier patients, happier patients, and doctors who feel more rewarded in their practice.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Whitehouse, we have talked a lot about debt and deficits here, but the main drivers are the aging population, cost of health care. So we are looking for exactly the types of solutions that you are bringing attention to. These Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) created in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are the type of cost containment mechanisms we need to look at and see if there is more of that we should be doing.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. And just one fine Rhode Island point on it, we have been working for years in Rhode Island to bring these principles to bear on patients who are nearing the end of life or in what is called advanced care, and to free up doctors to provide the care that they need without wasteful steps that Medicare pricing policy demands, and we are seeking waivers through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). I just want to flag that for you, because we will be pursuing this to make sure that all of the work that we have done in Rhode Island does not come to naught at the hands of the Federal Government.

So I will flag that for you. You do not need to respond. We can talk more in person, but it is an important Rhode Island priority for me.

Climate costs. Freddie Mac has warned of a coastal property value crash that will cascade through the rest of the economy the way the mortgage meltdown in 2008 cascaded through the economy. Central banks around the world are warning of a carbon bubble that could precipitate a global economic collapse when the bubble bursts. The Fed is beginning to make similar warnings here in the United States, and the insurance industry is warning that risks like flooding risks and wildfire risks are becoming so unpredictable as to be uninsurable.

With those warnings out there, do you at OMB take this problem of climate costs coming at us seriously, and do you have anything

to say to us here in the Senate about how seriously we should take those warnings?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I think the President's budget speaks for itself on the climate investments you see. We see it as an existential threat to the economy, to the global economy, to the American people. That is why you have seen young people around the world look at climate change as an issue they should care passionately about, given that their future is very tied to it. You heard in my opening statements the billions of dollars we spend, from a Federal Government, to respond to and rebuild from these catastrophic events that have continued to get worse.

So at OMB we take it very seriously and commit to work with anyone who sees this as a threat, and it will take solutions from Congress to deal with.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Just to put a dollar perspective on it, if we can get ahead of the climate problem we will save hundreds of billions, if not trillions of dollars. Correct?

Ms. YOUNG. That is correct.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Chairman. I wish you both well. I cannot wait to be working with you, confirmed in your positions, fully and officially.

Ms. COLORETTI. Thank you.

Ms. YOUNG. Thank you.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you very much, Senator Whitehouse. Senator Scott.

Senator SCOTT. Thank you, Chairman. Director Young, it is nice to see you again. The last time you were here I asked you a few questions on the budget. So the first one is, what is our Federal deficit now, or Federal debt now?

Ms. YOUNG. The Federal debt is in the 30s of trillions.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. And what was our deficit last year and what do you project the deficit to be this year?

Ms. YOUNG. I want to make sure I get that right, Senator Scott. I do not have the number at my fingertips.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. And do you know what our revenues were last year, last fiscal year?

Ms. YOUNG. Clearly not enough that we did not have a deficit, but again, I will get those numbers to the Committee.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. The deficit last year was \$2.8 billion, and the collections this last year was \$4 trillion. Do you know what our expenses were last year?

Ms. YOUNG. Whatever delta those two numbers are.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. How about our interest expense on our Federal debt?

Ms. YOUNG. I know it is still at one of the lowest rates in decades. We still pay very little on our debt, given that interest rates have remained low for the last three decades.

Senator SCOTT. We paid \$413 billion last year, which is 7 percent higher than 2020. Do you know what the duration of our Federal debt is?

Ms. YOUNG. I do not, sir.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. And do you know, off the top of your head, what the amount of unspent COVID money is?

Ms. YOUNG. We talked about the state and local dollars being around \$300 billion, but 97 percent of the pre-ARP COVID funds remain obligated, and most of the direct COVID response dollars in ARP are obligated or spoken for.

Senator SCOTT. Do you stay up with what the inflation rate is and what the producer price index increases have been?

Ms. YOUNG. I do.

Senator SCOTT. What are they?

Ms. YOUNG. Seven percent.

Senator SCOTT. For which one? For what, CPI?

Ms. YOUNG. For CPI.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. So Ms. Coloretti, can you give us those? What is our Federal debt now?

Ms. COLORETTI. I believe we said in the 30s of trillions of dollars.

Senator SCOTT. Okay. And what do you think our deficit is going to be this year?

Ms. COLORETTI. I think you said our deficit last year—and again, I am guessing here—but \$4 trillion.

Senator SCOTT. And so if you think our debt is in the 30s, how much debt—either or both of you—what can we have? Is there a cap? What is the amount that you think is sustainable?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, there are many ways to look at debt, many markers. One is, and what we have put forward as a theory in the case in the budget we submitted was what is the cost of carrying debt? And we remain—

Senator SCOTT. Let us assume it is where it is now. What would be the maximum debt we should have?

Ms. YOUNG. Our theory is it really depends on if debt becomes so costly to carry that we cannot do other spending that we should be doing, and the interest rates remain very low at historic rates. So it has not crowded out other investments.

Senator SCOTT. So over the last 50 years, do you know what the average interest rate for our 10-year Treasury is?

Ms. YOUNG. I do not.

Senator SCOTT. So what if I said it is more—say it is over 5 percent, and we have, you said, over \$30 trillion worth of debt. So that would be \$1.5 trillion of interest a year. Would that be unsustainable?

Ms. YOUNG. We do not think we are in an unsustainable situation. Again, it goes to the real cost of carrying debt, and our interest payments on the debt remain low and has now crowded out other investments we need to make in this country.

Senator SCOTT. But you are not sure what the duration is. So if interest rates move, and they moved up this year, as you know. They have moved up since the first of the year. So if the interest rates continue to move back to, let us say, the 50-year average, would that be sustainable then?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Scott, of course we would have to re-look at all of our assumptions if that historic nature of the cost of debt changes, but it has not in 30 years, in any measurable form.

Senator SCOTT. So, all right. I am surprised that you have been in the job, I guess, for almost a year, and these numbers are pretty significant. I mean, these numbers are numbers that it seems like you ought to know. Because you ought to know the exact debt. You

ought to know what we are doing in collections and what our expenses are, because if you were the CFO of a company that is what the expectations are, and that is how I think of this job.

So I think we ought to start looking at reality here—33 trillion-plus of debt, deficits that we cannot afford. It is going to be very difficult. Thank you.

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

Senator MERKLEY. Can you hear me okay?

Chairman SANDERS. Actually, turn it down a little bit. You are coming in a little bit loud.

Senator MERKLEY. Okay.

Chairman SANDERS. That is good. That is good.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you, Deputy Director Young. I have a couple of details I would like to ask you about. One is that we are still dealing with the horrific fires in the West, and will be forevermore. And one thing that has been helpful has been the funding of the National Guard to help provide fire crews during these worst moments. And the White House touted those investments in the National guard in a press release last summer, but the Administration did not put this fire training for the National Guard into their budget. And I want to ask if you would put it in the budget for next year, because it has become such an important additional component when we are in those mega-fires.

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, the timing of the budget, and when fire season and many of those initiatives came forward did not align, but we are happy to support those additional efforts, given the devastating effect of those forest fires. So I am happy to go back and work with our agencies, DoD, USDA, and DOI to make sure we have adequate resources to fight fires, and we will take back that specific proposal.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you. I appreciate that.

Second, I noted and appreciated President Biden's commitment to direct 40 percent of green Federal investments towards environmental justice communities, something that is often greatly overlooked, and it is so important to have this kind of equity screen to track how agencies are spending their time and dollars to meet that commitment.

What do you see as OMB's role in targeting and tracking those investments?

Ms. YOUNG. We are the centerpiece of that initiative, Senator Merkley, and it is one of the top priorities we have in our office. So we look forward to partnering with you, keeping you up to speed on our efforts there. But we are, I think, the keepers of that initiative and looking forward to carrying it out.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you. Do you anticipate that you will probably do annual reports in that regard, to help us wrestle with how we are doing?

Ms. YOUNG. I think that is a great suggestion. You know, transparency here should be something that is paramount, to make sure we are keeping the word of our value statements. So I am happy to take that suggestion back as one way to make sure the public understands what we are doing.

Senator MERKLEY. Thank you. And then I wanted to turn to the challenge we face with each continuing resolution. At the end of

that continuing resolution the possibilities are we have another continuing resolution or we pass the spending bills that the appropriate committees have invested so much in, and I know as a former staff for an Appropriations Committee you know exactly how intense that process is. And the third option, which we do not like to talk about much, is that neither happens, and in that situation we have a bit of a crisis.

Do you think it is important to have contingency plans for that third option, when a continuing resolution runs out and we do not succeed, and immediately having another continuing resolution and more spending bills in place?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, I truly believe—I have talked to you and most of your colleagues during this process and trying to do our part from the Administration on getting full-year bills passed. Everything I have heard, you know, it is difficult. Everyone wants to get there, and understands the devastating effects any threat of a shutdown would bring.

So I am maybe, you know, maybe I will have egg on my face, but I am optimistic that the appropriators and the rest of Congress can reach a deal, and I think everyone understands the devastating effects of continuing resolutions.

Senator MERKLEY. Well, I certainly believe that there is bipartisan understanding of how devastating option 3, door number 3 is, and yet my question was, is your agency planning for how we would treat door number 3 if we should have to go through it?

Ms. YOUNG. We have to, Senator. It would be irresponsible not to. And I appreciate that the Congress works by deadlines, so we have gotten pretty close up to the line, even though we knew Congress would come through. So even given that time frame the last couple of CRs, we have run exercises to make sure we know what our plans are in case a deal is not reached in time.

Senator MERKLEY. Well, my role on the Appropriations Committee is as Chair of the Interior Subcommittee, and there are many key components that we worry about a great deal behind door number 3, when we do not succeed and we have another continuing resolution or a spending bill, including the National Park Service. My staff on that subcommittee has sought to discuss the contingency plans for that situation and has not been able to get a briefing authorized for them. Can we make sure that that briefing happens?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, we are happy to provide briefings. We are conscientious about when we talk about potential shutdowns, given how close in timing we are to needing a deal. So we will work something out—I know your staff well—to make sure they have the information they need, but also not to portray a sense that we think we are headed down a bad road. So we will balance that.

Senator MERKLEY. Let's wrap the contingency planning in all kinds of optimism, but it is important that Congress be part of a discussion about the consequences, and hopefully increase the absolute motivation and make sure we do not end up in that place. This request has been in place for I think going on three months now, and I do not really find it acceptable that OMB has been blocking Interior from providing such a conversation with the Interior Subcommittee staff. And so I hope we can remedy that situation.

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

Senator ROMNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Young, as you probably know I was one of those that was part of the bipartisan negotiating team that put together the infrastructure bill. Our largest single investment was in highways. You can imagine our surprise when we see the Department of Transportation indicating that the highway money cannot be used for increasing capacity of highways. This direction flies in the face of our intent and our needs.

I recognize there are some states that are not growing and may not need additional capacity—New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Rhode Island, and so forth. But there are other states that are growing fast—South Carolina, Florida, my state of Utah, the fastest-growing state in the nation over the last decade. We need to increase the capacity in our highways or we are not going to see the economic growth which we projected as being part of this bill.

Could you please get back to me and other members of our bipartisan group on progress on this front and what the status will actually be?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, the Ranking Member has brought this to my attention today. I will absolutely look into this, and thank you for your work on that piece of legislation.

Senator ROMNEY. Thank you. A broader topic, which is, I have a six-foot chart in my office going back to 2000 BC, which looks at the coming and going of great civilizations over time. And there is a common characteristic of civilizations in decline and that ultimately collapse, and that is that they end up spending far more than they take in. They are able to do that because other nations see them as being strong and loan money to them. They inevitably have a massive inflation in their economy. By doing so, they devalue their currency. At some point their currency ceases being the reserve currency of the world.

It is a real concern for many of us to see us, year after year, spend more money than we take in, and it is a precursor of economic calamity. Right now we are seeing the economic impact being showered on the people of America that are suffering with very high rates of inflation.

I was, frankly, alarmed that the numbers were not familiar to you and to your Deputy Director. The national debt is \$29.9 trillion. It is not in the 30s. It will be. The projected deficits are roughly \$1 trillion a year on a normal basis. If we have COVID relief packages it kicks those numbers even larger. This is an ongoing threat to our nation and to the well-being of our citizens and has to be a priority for you and for the Administration.

I would note that about one-third of Federal spending is the portion that is part of the budget that you work on, that we vote on. Two-thirds is automatic, so-called nondiscretionary—Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest.

Contrary to what you indicated in your testimony, our interest rates have not been about the same over the last 30 years. They have come down dramatically and are now ticking back up. As a matter of fact, Bill Clinton called me after I lost my race, back in 2012, and said his biggest concern was that interest rates going

back to their normative level would take our interest payments to be even greater than our military spending.

So this is a major issue that you need to focus on. I would encourage you and hope that you will include in the analysis and reports you provide not just the one-third that we vote on but the two-thirds that we do not vote on, and project where that is going to be heading over the coming decade. This will determine whether we are able to keep up with other nations in the world and maintain our lead as the hope and guide for democracy throughout the world.

Will you make this a priority of your effort to see what the total spending is and to see how our entitlements are affecting what our total debt and total deficit will be?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator Romney, you have my commitment to do that, and we have done that. Even off-budget items like Social Security, our budget fully reflected what the total outlays of the Federal Government are. We think that is the only way to present a unified budget. We did that in the 2022 budget and we will do that again in the 2023 budget.

Senator ROMNEY. I very much underscore the importance of this for all of us. We simply cannot keep going on spending trillions of dollars more than we take in without suffering high rates of inflation into the future and potentially losing our lead in the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Romney. Senator Padilla.

Senator PADILLA. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate this opportunity to ask questions. As both Acting Director Young and the nominee for Deputy Director, Coloretti, know from an earlier hearing today at HSGAC, I had a chance to be with them.

I wanted to raise some issues that we talked about by phone prior to today. As a follow-up to those conversations, I wanted to raise some questions about critical California flooding projects to protect the shoreline in and around San Francisco as probably the best example.

Congress passed the fiscal year 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act in order to construct urgent flood control projects nationwide, including San Francisco's shoreline. However, inflation, supply chain issues, and Army Corps' initial underestimation of project costs have delayed these projects, which are now over budget. Easy to get over budget when the Army Corps initially underestimates.

So I understand that the delays have been exacerbated by the Army Corps' decisions, which is not reflected in statute. And I would note that unless 100 percent of the project costs are in hand they cannot move forward with any piece of the project. The Administration has not asked for additional funding for this project in its budget, nor did it allocate any in the most recent work plan.

So you can understand my frustration when the Army Corps says it cannot do the project until it has more money, yet when Congress gives Army Corps more money it does not allocate any to the project, and this is a project that the Army Corps itself said was critical and urgent, which is why it was on the disaster funding list in the first place.

So, Acting Director Young, you see the absurdity of the situation we are in. Any thoughts on how we can resolve this?

Ms. YOUNG. It is something I focused on. We are working diligently with the Army Corps of Engineers on their legal interpretations on the mixing of money, depending on what bills. You have my personal commitment to find a working solution here. You are absolutely right. If the Corps, the government tells a community they are going to fund a project, it is unacceptable to leave it not completed. So you have my commitment to find a workable solution here.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you for that. Another Army Corps item while I have you. The Army Corps' projects are essential to facilitating commercial navigation, mitigating disaster risk, of course, safeguarding ecosystems, and supporting economic growth. OMB plays an influential role in the implementation of these projects, both clearing the authorization of a project and once authorized by Congress, approving both funding requests in the President's budget as well as funding allocations to the Army Corps' work plans.

Acting Director Young, will you commit to evaluating potential changes to budgeting policies and economic benefit calculations that as currently structured disadvantage lower-income communities and often communities of color, for example, where property values are lower?

Ms. YOUNG. This is why you see a focus and an entire Executive order on the issue of equity. Sometimes the scores do not give a full story on the reasons the Federal Government should invest in communities. So you certainly have my commitment to make sure we look at a wide breadth of things when we look at Federal investments.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you. In the time remaining a question for Ms. Coloretti.

I do not need to tell you, from your experience at HUD and elsewhere, the urgency with which we need to act on homelessness and the affordable housing crisis in America that predates the pandemic. The pandemic has underscored the need for affordable, safe, and supportive housing. Over the past two years, though, many have lost their housing. Others have struggled to make rent or mortgage payments for the first time, and these hardships disproportionately impacted homeowners of color, lower-income families, and those with disabilities.

With your previous experience, how can you help shape or strengthen housing programs to better serve the people of our country?

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, I appreciate that question and a chance to talk about this a little bit. My understanding is that the Biden administration has a strong commitment to increasing the supply and the affordability of housing, and, in fact, in the fiscal year 2022 budget added additional dollars into housing choice vouchers, affordable housing supply, and resources to prevent and address homelessness for our most vulnerable.

One of the things I was privileged to work on when I was at Housing and Urban Development was the issue of ending veterans' homelessness, and the issue is a coalition of Federal, state, and local stakeholders to really address housing needs for the most vul-

nerable. And I believe the Biden administration is pointed in the right direction on this.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and it is great to see both of you. Congratulations on your nominations. Thank you for your service.

I know the state of the economy has been discussed a little bit today. I just think it is important to remind people of some figures, which is that before we enacted the American Rescue Plan CBO projected that GDP growth in 2021 would be 4.6 percent. It turned out that real GDP growth was 5.7 percent, ahead of projections.

And in another hearing in the Banking and Housing Committee I asked the Chairman of the Federal Reserve about the impact of the American Rescue Plan on unemployment, and he said, unequivocally, that it helped to reduce unemployment. In fact, it reduced unemployment to under 4 percent four years earlier than CBO had projected—4 years earlier than CBO had projected.

Acting Director Young, you and I have talked about the Federal workforce and the need to make recruitment a top priority, and retention a top priority. I chair the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee and have heard from lots of Federal agencies about the concerns about the hiring process and how long it takes. I have also heard that from people applying for Federal jobs.

I know OPM has a major role in this area, but of course so does OMB. Can you commit to working with us here on this Committee and with OPM to identify solutions for improving the merit-based hiring process?

Ms. YOUNG. Absolutely. Look at the infrastructure law. We think we need at least 4,000 new Federal employees just to implement that law. So OPM, and working with us and our Deputy Director for Management, are working on waivers and things we can do to bring people in faster.

We do this in certain places well, but we have got to do more to broaden. I have been a civil servant, and you need an advanced degree, in some cases, to learn how to get through the hiring system. So you have my commitment to work on that.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well thank you. I just think we have got to step that up in a big way, especially given the new commitments that need to be met with the legislation that has been passed.

It sometimes is overlooked, but the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) is, of course, a part of OMB and serves the government as the central authority for the review of regulations. Federal agencies submit significant proposed and final rules to OIRA, and there are currently over 80 regulatory actions under review, such as improvements to energy efficiency standards.

How will you prioritize these regulatory actions, if you are confirmed?

Ms. YOUNG. Senator, they are all important. One of the greatest learning curves and one thing I have spent a lot of time in the last few months is learning the OIRA process. It is essential to making sure the President's vision is carried out when it comes to regu-

latory policy and also make sure that we are doing a consistent job around competition, equity, these values in Executive orders that the President has put forth. They need to be represented in our regulatory policy.

There are some things we have clear direction from the President that are priorities that we need to move faster, especially in the area of climate change. But there are all important, and many of these things have been on the shelf for many, many years. So we are working with the staff we have to clear all of them out once they come in from agency review.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Well, thank you. I hope you will urge the President to appoint an administrator for that part of OMB, because there are lots of important actions that are awaiting final decision.

Ms. Coloretti, during your time as Deputy Secretary of HUD, HUD was the most improved midsized department in the Partnership for Public Service's Best Places to Work study. Could you talk a little bit about the steps you took to accomplish that and about the Biden administration's plan to improve employee engagement so that every Federal worker is able to do the best job possible for the American people? What lessons did you learn there that we can apply government-wide?

Ms. COLORETTI. Senator, thanks for that question and for your leadership on this issue. We did use data, first and foremost, to help us understand where our scores were when we were at the ranked bottom, when I was the Deputy Secretary of HUD on the Federal Employee viewpoint Survey. And so we looked at the data, and one thing we learned was that only 51 percent of employees had filled out the survey. And so what that served to do was managers were not convinced that that was a real score, even though it was low.

So one of the things we did was do an effective push to actually increase participation in the survey, thinking that if we really are at this low of a score we might as well find out for sure. And we were able to get our participation rate up to 75 to 80 percent in one year, and it had been 51. That served to get a better set of data to understand what areas and what questions were scoring low.

And so what we learned was employee engagement, there were several questions that are targeted at employee engagement, and it is important for each agency to look at those and how it applies to their agency. For HUD, what we did was we actually did a couple of things. We worked with every SES manager and we also did some crowdsourcing to get ideas from people about how to improve and strengthen HUD.

And as part of that project, that set of projects and deep dive we did, was how we were engaging with employees. And we noticed that on those particular scores, all of those scores went up. And as you know, and you probably know this from looking at the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, when employees are more engaged it actually serves to increase all the scores.

And so that is really how we did it, but we first and foremost used data to help us understand what was happening on the ground.

Senator VAN HOLLEN. Thank you. Thank you both. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman SANDERS. Thank you, Senator Van Hollen.

Let me thank Ms. Young and Ms. Coloretti for appearing before the Committee today. This is your second committee appearance. It has been a long day.

Your full statements 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. Email copies will also be accepted. Under Committee rules, Ms. Young and Ms. Coloretti will have seven days from receipt of our questions to respond with answers.

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

[Whereupon, at 4:15 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

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

Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Ms. Shalanda Young
Nominee to be Director, Office of Management and Budget
February 1, 2022

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify as President Biden’s nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget. It’s been my honor to serve as the Acting Director of OMB these past 10 months. And I am grateful to the President for the trust he has put in me with this nomination.

When I first came before the Committee last March, I told you a little bit about my experience growing up in rural Louisiana. I talked about my years leading the House Appropriations Committee as its top staffer, serving this institution that I care about so deeply. And I made a commitment to you: that I would focus my service at OMB on restoring regular order, partnering with Congress in a spirit of bipartisanship and mutual respect, and delivering results for the American people.

Over the past 10 months, I have kept that commitment—working alongside the extraordinary team at OMB, and with members of this Committee from both sides of the aisle. I’d like to briefly highlight just five of OMB’s achievements that showcase what our team is capable of with the partnership of the Senate and this Committee.

First, together with Congress, we delivered crucial disaster relief funding for communities across the country—not only to respond to Hurricane Ida and last year’s devastating wildfires, but to address unmet recovery needs from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Working with FEMA, we announced nearly five billion dollars last year to help communities prepare for and respond to extreme weather events. And with the help of Congress, we secured another 4.5 billion dollars through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to further build community resilience.

Second, we worked with members of both parties to help develop and enact the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including permanently authorizing the FAST-41 law, something I committed to helping get done during my confirmation hearings in March. And OMB is focused on implementing this law with the highest level of effectiveness and accountability.

Third, we stood up a new Made in America Office that has already facilitated billions of dollars in new purchases to support American manufacturing. The office has brought unprecedented transparency to the waiver review process—important progress that matters to many of us in this room. I am grateful that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expanded Made-in-America requirements to all Federal infrastructure funding and codified this office in OMB—and that it will continue its work in future administrations.

Fourth, we took action to make the Federal Government more efficient, effective, and accountable to the public. Those steps include OMB’s work to implement a new Executive Order

to streamline government services and improve customer experience, as well as much-needed progress on investing in IT modernization across the Federal Government.

And finally, in keeping with the President's long-standing commitment to oversight, we directed agencies to focus on two important areas: restoring the integrity and independence of their Inspectors General, and working with Congress to ensure that IGs can fulfill their mandate.

I know that there are legitimate differences in this country—and in this room—that deserve honest debate, and I've appreciated the opportunity to speak directly with many of you about them.

If confirmed, I will continue to work closely with you and your colleagues to deliver for the American people. And I will continue to find common ground, to be responsive, and to rebuild the career staff at OMB who play an essential role in ensuring our Government works for all Americans.

Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Graham, and other Members of the Committee, thank you again for allowing me to appear here today. I'm looking forward to your questions.

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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:** Director of the Office of Management and Budget
3. **Date of nomination:** 12/2/2021
4. **Address:** (REDACTED)
5. **Date and place of birth:** (REDACTED) 1977, (REDACTED) Louisiana
6. **Marital status:** (REDACTED)
7. **Names and ages of children:** (REDACTED)
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
 2021 Congressional Black Associates Trailblazer award

15. **Published writings:** (1) 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. (2) The Path to Achieving Justice 40, OMB Blog, July, 2021. (3) Meeting a Milestone of President Biden's Whole-of-Government Equity Agenda, OMB Blog, August 2021. (4) The 2022 Mid-Session Review, OMB Blog, August 2021. (5) Delivering for the American People and Meeting Urgent Needs in the New Fiscal Year, OMB Blog, September 2021.

16. **Speeches:** (1) Testimony of Shalanda Young for the Nomination Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget, March 2, 2021. (2) Testimony for the Nomination Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, March 4, 2021. (3) European Parliament Budget Committee Presentation, May 31, 2021. (4) Testimony of Shalanda Young before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget regarding President Biden's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, June 8, 2021. (5) Testimony of Shalanda Young before the U.S. House Budget Committee regarding President Biden's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, Office of Management and Budget, June 9, 2021. (6) Testimony of Shalanda Young before the House Appropriations Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, June 9, 2021. (7) Video Remarks at the Virtual Graduation Ceremony for PMFs from the Class of 2018, June 25, 2021. (8) Video Remarks for the Partnership for Public Service's Best Places to Work in the Federal Government Rankings, June 29, 2021. (9) Video Remarks at the PMF Leadership Development Program, September 14, 2021. (10) Video Remarks for AK Federation of Natives – Leadership in Uncertain Times Event, October 19, 2021. (11) Video Remarks for Results for America's 2021 Invest in What Works Federal Standard of Excellence Release Event, November 3, 2021.

17. **Selection:**

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

For more than eight months I have served as the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget. During that time, I led formulation of the President's fiscal year 2022 Budget and have helped oversee the implementation of the President's vision across the Executive Branch. For nearly fourteen years I served in various roles with the House Appropriations Committee – including as its top staffer – working on the legislative side of the Federal budget process. I have spent the majority of my two-decade career at every level of the Federal budget process. I believe that experience uniquely qualifies me to serve as OMB Director. In addition, during my time as Acting Director, I have led OMB's over 600 FTEs, including managing reentry efforts within OMB and across the Federal government.

(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

(c) Have you made any commitments with respect to the policies and principles you will attempt to implement in the position for which you have been nominated? If so, please identify such commitment(s) and all persons to whom such commitment(s) have been made.

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?

Not applicable given that my nomination is for a position at the same agency at which I currently serve.

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.
In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Office of Management and Budget's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement, which I understand has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

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.
I have been named as a defendant in my official capacity as Acting Director in various lawsuits filed against OMB since being sworn in on March 24, 2021.

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.
I am not aware of any additional information that should be considered.

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
(REDACTED)

(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.
(REDACTED)

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.

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)

AFFIDAVIT

Shalanda Young being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement of 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

20th

day of

December, 2021

David E. Kalbaugh
Notary Public

Attachment #1

Executive Branch Experience

Office of Management and Budget

Deputy Director/Acting Director 2021 – Present

- Serves as a Member of the President's Cabinet and as a senior advisor to President Biden on the Budget and Budget execution.
- Leads an agency with over 760 employees and a budget of over \$100 million annually.
- Manages the government-wide process of producing the President's annual budget.
- Provides guidance to agencies on the implementation of Federal programs and coordinates inter-agency policy initiatives.
- Coordinates the Administration's regulatory, procurement, information technology, and financial management policies.

**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).
- 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.

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.

Detailer (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.

**U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Pre-hearing Questionnaire
For the Nomination of Shalanda Young
to be Director, Office of Management and Budget**

I. Sen. Kennedy

1. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released their December 2021 Consumer Price Index report revealing that inflation grew 7 percent in 2021, the fastest annual rate since 1982 . They also reported a record-high producer price inflation reading of 9.7 percent . What is your plan to get this record-high inflation under control? Do you believe the trillions this administration is spending is hindering our long-term economic recovery?

A: First, it's important to remember that the President's economic strategy has helped produce a historic economic and jobs recovery. Our economy has added a record 6.4 million new jobs. The unemployment rate has plunged from 4.6% to 3.9%. The average number of Americans filing for unemployment has been near its lowest level since 1969. And the economy is growing at the fastest rate in decades.

At the same time, too many Americans are facing price increases. That's why the Administration has laid out a three-pronged approach to fight inflation and lower costs for working families. First, addressing supply chain challenges so that we can continue to move record amounts of goods through our ports and onto shelves. Second, taking action to foster greater competition and protect consumers from increased corporate consolidation. And third, making the important investments in families and people to increase the productive capacity of our economy and make our economy more resilient to future shocks. Of course, a critical role in making sure that the elevated prices don't become entrenched rests with the Federal Reserve, which has a dual mandate: full employment and stable prices.

The Administration is committed to creating an economy that can generate more growth, more jobs, and more opportunity for all Americans—and I am eager to partner with Congress in this important work.

2. Over the past two years, the Biden administration has spent \$5.4 trillion through six separate pieces of legislation. The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan allocated less than 9 percent to combatting Covid-19, with the remaining 91 percent spent bailing out state governments and unrelated pet projects. A report from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that 20 states reported they could not use at least 50 percent of Covid-19 specific childcare stabilization funding in December, with 13 reporting they have used none of the funds. Now, the administration is asking Congress to pass another pandemic supplemental package. The American Rescue Plan, passed in March 2021, has nearly half a trillion in funds remaining. Do you believe it is responsible to pass another COVID supplemental package without reassessing allocated funds? Do you think we should use all allocated funds before spending hardworking American taxpayers' dollars and furthering

our dangerous economic decline? Will you commit to providing a plan for unallocated COVID funds before submitting another COVID supplemental package?

A: The Administration is committed to using every available tool to combat COVID-19 and rebuild our economy. Prior to the Biden Administration, the bipartisan COVID relief bills, including CARES Act, were critical to this country's response to the virus and economic health. Those bills and the American Rescue Plan have ensured that the Federal Government, as well as states and localities, could respond to the pandemic. Most recently, these resources have helped our country respond to immediate needs related to the surge in infections and hospitalizations caused by the Omicron variant. I commit to remain in close touch with Congress on various resource needs, as we know the ability of this virus to mutate. We must be prepared to quickly mobilize to get shots into arms, surge testing and hospital capacity, deploy emergency response teams, and more.

3. Will you commit to submitting to Congress an emergency supplemental request for natural disasters in 2021? Please provide an update for unmet needs for the state of Louisiana for calendar year 2021.

A: As part of the Administration's 2022 CR appropriations anomaly package, I, on behalf of the Administration, communicated our strong support for emergency funding to respond to unmet needs resulting from natural disasters that occurred in CY 2020 and CY 2021, including in Louisiana. We were grateful that Congress responded by providing much needed disaster aid for communities across the country. Since his time in office, this President committed to providing for communities devastated by natural disasters, and that includes ensuring they have the resources they need from the Federal government to recover. I am committed to working with Congress and key disaster response and recovery agencies, such as FEMA, SBA, and HUD, to ensure that we are always responsive the needs of states and localities as they prepare for and recover from natural disasters.

II. Sen. Sanders, Chairman

1. Will you commit that, if confirmed, you will work with me toward advancing the following goals?
 - a. Raising the federal minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour.

A: 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 over the course of few years. 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.

- b. Crafting legislation and rules to ensure that all Americans who wish to join a union can do so.

A: The President cares deeply about protecting workers' rights, including the critical right of every worker to organize, bargain collectively, and join a union. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing policies that strengthen labor protections, make it easier for workers to join labor organizations, and increase accountability for violations of federal labor law. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to protect workers' rights, and will continue to strongly enforce existing laws that protect the rights of workers to form and join a union.

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

A: The President is committed to making college more affordable and to helping borrowers manage their student loan payments by reducing the burden of student debt. The President's FY 2022 Budget proposed free community college; tuition subsidies for low- and middle-income students enrolled in four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and minority-serving institutions; and support for college completion.

The Administration has also used its current authority to take a number of steps over the past year to support students and borrowers, including approving \$1.5 billion in borrower defense claims, extending full relief to borrowers with approved claims, and approving new types of claims. The Department of Education cancelled \$7.8 billion in loans for borrowers who received a total and permanent disability discharge. Additionally, the changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program being implemented through October 31, 2022, have led to almost \$5 billion in loan forgiveness for more than 70,000 public servants. In addition, the Administration is conducting negotiated rulemaking in order to make income-driven repayment more generous so that no borrower will have to make a loan payment they cannot afford. The Administration will continue to use its authority where appropriate to help borrowers and looks forward to working with Congress on proposals to tackle the burden of student debt.

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

A: The President supports lowering the Medicare eligibility age to provide health care coverage options for individuals nearing retirement and adding Medicare coverage for hearing, vision and dental services. The President's FY 2022 Budget supported having Medicare cover hearing, vision, and dental care. If confirmed, I am committed to working with Congress on the President's agenda to expand health coverage and lower health costs so that older Americans can access the affordable care they need.

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

A: The President's FY 2022 Budget supported reforms that would bring down drug prices by letting Medicare negotiate payment for certain high-cost drugs. If confirmed, I am committed to working with Congress to support legislative efforts to enable the government to negotiate prescription drug prices and require manufacturers to pay rebates when drug prices rise faster than inflation. These efforts would increase competition, reduce drug prices, and lower out of pocket costs for patients at the pharmacy counter.

- f. Expanding and improving long-term home health care to make sure that senior citizens and persons with disabilities can receive the care they need in their homes by well-paid workers instead of being forced into expensive, inadequate, and understaffed nursing homes.

A: The President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget supported major investments to expand home and community-based care for older people and people with disabilities and to improve conditions for home care workers. The Administration is committed to expanding and improving home and community-based services, and if confirmed I will work with Congress toward that shared goal.

- g. Establishing a federal guarantee of at least 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.

A: 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. The 2022 President's Budget included a national comprehensive paid family and medical leave program, which provides 12 weeks of paid leave by year 10 of the program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored 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 the rest of the world in ensuring paid family and medical leave for those who need it. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to accomplish this.

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

A: Providing pre-kindergarten education and affordable childcare is a top priority of the Administration. The Administration included a proposal in the President's FY 2022 Budget that would provide direct support to low- and middle-income families for high-quality and affordable child care, and provide universal, high-quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds so they are able to grow, learn, and gain the skills they need to succeed. We stand ready to work with Congress to provide support to low- and middle-income families to ensure they have access to high quality child care.

- i. 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.

A: This Administration is eager to work with Congress to make long-overdue investments in our nation's K-12 students and schools. While the American Rescue Plan included \$122 billion to help schools reopen and meet the needs of students that stemmed from the pandemic, the Administration believes additional, sustained investment in our schools is needed to address longstanding inequities and ensure every student can learn and thrive. Therefore, the President's FY 2022 Budget proposed significant increases in Department of Education K-12 programs including a \$20 billion increase in Title I, more than double the 2021 funding level, to help schools deliver a high-quality education to students from low-income families. The Budget also proposed a \$2.6 billion increase in IDEA state grants, which would increase the Federal share of the cost of providing services to students with disabilities for the first time in eight years. The Budget proposed \$10 billion in 2022, and \$50 billion over five years for investments in school infrastructure. The Administration also recognizes the significant toll school closures and disruptions have had on students' mental health and has proposed significant investments in school mental health professionals and community schools that provide comprehensive services to students and their families.

- j. 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.

A: The President's FY 2022 Budget 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.

- k. Ensuring all Americans have access to free, high-quality N95 masks and rapid antigen tests to protect themselves from COVID-19.

A: The Administration is committed to expanding access to high quality masks and testing and, if confirmed, I am committed to working with you to ensure these activities are properly funded. Just recently, the President announced a number of important new steps the Federal government is taking in our continuing COVID-19 response, including new programs to provide free tests and masks to the public.

- l. Establishing the strongest possible rules to ensure all Americans receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

A: Since its first day, the Administration has made vaccination a critical part of its COVID-19 response and it still is now. If confirmed, I will ensure that OMB works with the White House COVID-19 Response team and Federal agencies to support a whole-of-government effort to increase vaccination.

- m. Demanding that the wealthiest people and most profitable corporations in America pay their fair share of taxes by, among other things, repealing all of the Trump tax breaks that went to the top one percent and large companies.

A: The President has been clear and consistent that he believes the wealthiest Americans must pay their fair share—and that billionaires shouldn't pay lower tax rates than everyday families. The President supports rolling back the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduction in the top ordinary tax rate on income above \$400,000 from 39.6% to 37% so that the highest earners contribute more of their fair share. The President also supports rolling back the reduction in the corporate tax rate – raising it to 28 percent from 21 percent – and raising taxes on corporate profits hidden in tax havens. The Administration successfully negotiated a historic agreement among over one hundred countries to set a global minimum tax on corporations, to crack down on corporate tax havens.

Questions for the Record

For Shalanda D. Young

“Nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget”

February 1, 2022

Senate Budget Committee

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Senator Braun

On January 27, 2022, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a 238 page report, *COVID- 19: Significant Improvements Are Needed for Overseeing Relief Funds and Leading Responses to Public Health Emergencies* Issues with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) program included state requests for (multiple) 30-day extensions related to the distribution of funds to Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government. The worst laggards being four states with seven 30-day extension requests.

While the administration deemed passing the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) "urgent", only 10 percent of the bill went toward actual COVID relief and it took Treasury nine months after ARPA passed to issue a final rule for CSLFR. The rule relaxed standards where state and local governments are allowed to spend their remaining amounts of federal aid on any government service without being required to prove the service lost revenue during the pandemic.

Media reports offer several anecdotal examples that states and localities are spending money on programs and projects not related to the COVID health emergency. In one example, San Antonio recently released a draft plan which includes spending \$10.5 million on Morgan's Wonderland, an accessible theme park, and using federal dollars to pay for local construction projects so that the community could use their own dollars to pay for "local art." In a similar instance, Bennington, Vermont is reportedly considering how to spend its allocation from the Rescue Plan. Bennington's list of "Priority infrastructure projects" for this funding includes a skate park and outdoor skating rink.

During the Senate Budget Committee hearing, you noted that the CSLFRF program still represents a majority of unobligated funding still remaining from the American Rescue Plan. When asked if this funding should be repurposed for current and future needs related to testing and masks, you stated the purpose of those funds were to ensure that state and locals could respond to the pandemic, including taking on the omicron variant and for mitigation efforts.

Given the fact that the states were slow to roll out the money, Treasury relaxed standards for spending objectives and there is substantial evidence that states are not using the money for COVID related purposes, how can the administration support asking for new money needed for testing and masks when we just hit \$30 trillion in national debt and have unobligated funds that could be used to support COVID related needs?

The American Rescue Plan was designed to promote both speed and endurance; both a recovery plan for urgent relief and longer-term investments to support a durable and equitable recovery. Many key programs were designed to be available to deal with immediate crisis needs in 2021 while also being available to address critical needs through 2024, like addressing learning loss and supporting the mental health of students. And indeed, those funds have provided and continue to provide states and localities the flexibility to forcefully respond to COVID-19 and its variants, including Omicron. For instance, Arkansas recently added 265 additional hospital beds to respond to the Omicron surge, paid for with \$50 million from the American Rescue Plan.

Senator Braun

I appreciate your thoughts from the hearing regarding the Impoundment and Control Act of 1974 as it relates to the border barrier funding provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, however, I am still concerned that the administration is not following bipartisan Congressional intent.

The Government Accountability Office's (GAO's) *Appropriations Law Decision Regarding Border Wall* states "A detailed timeline could serve as a tool for rigorous oversight to ensure the President does not substitute his own policies and priorities in place of those established through the legislative process."⁶

GAO's opinion from June 2020 indicates that DHS may delay the disbursement of funds allocated to the border barrier and direct funding to other projects related to the border barrier separate from construction. GAO also shares that the Congress may exercise oversight authority consistent with Congress' power of the purse to require OMB and DHS to submit timelines detailing the uses of congressional appropriations.

Operating under a continuing resolution is a convenient way for Congressional majorities to delay any meaningful action regarding this program.

Can you provide the date as to when the budget authority expires for this authorization and appropriation to build a border barrier? Will you submit to Congress a detailed time line describing the uses of the \$1.375 billion Congress appropriated for the construction of a border barrier?

The *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2021* included \$1.375 billion, available until September 30, 2025, for the construction of barrier system along the southwest border. Unless and until Congress acts on the Administration's request to cancel those funds, the law requires DHS to use the funds consistent with their appropriated purpose, and DHS has developed a plan to do so. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is executing border wall funds in accordance with the June 9, 2021 DHS border wall plan, available online at dhs.gov. DHS provides regular status updates to the appropriations committees on the status of border wall funds, including anticipated timelines for the obligation of remaining funds.

Senator Braun

Last October, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco published an economic letter noting that the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) has had a "meaningful" impact on inflation. Since the passage of ARPA, inflation rose 7% in 2021, the largest year-over-year increase since June 1982. The federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution and last fall, the Senate Majority released nine appropriations bills with non-defense spending increases of 13%.

How would passing the Build Back Better (BBB) plan and/or abnormally large increases in our annual discretionary appropriations reduce inflation?

The President is focused on fighting inflation, and he has laid out a three-part plan that is focused on strengthening supply chains, lowering costs for Americans through policies including lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and promoting greater competition.

Senator Cramer

According to recent reports, the administration has been using funds from the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) to purchase additional COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. As you may know, ensuring our health care providers have access to this fund was Congress' intent. Congress specifically created the PRF for providers and their needs, as they battled on the front lines of this pandemic. This fund was particularly crucial for rural providers in states like North Dakota, as they fought to keep their doors open, care for overwhelming numbers of patients, and struggle against labor shortages. It is perplexing to learn that the Provider Relief Fund is not being used for its intent, especially when Congress has specifically provided other funds for the express purpose of purchasing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

What role did OMB play in the allocation of PRF funding for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics?

As the nation faced an unprecedented and soaring demand for monoclonal antibodies during the Delta wave, HHS determined that it needed to surge resources to shore up the U.S. supply of these life-saving therapeutics. Therapeutics purchased with PRF funding were distributed to providers at no cost so they could meet the demand for these life-saving tools, and prevent tens of thousands of hospitalizations, lessening the burden on hospitals and saving resources for other patients.

Most of the PRF resources were funds returned from providers. As always, OMB confirmed legal authorities and worked with HHS on budget planning and execution. Like the prior Administration, this Administration used the statutory authorities available for Provider Relief Funds, consistent with legal opinions of the HHS Office of the General Counsel.

Senator Cramer

What statutory authority did the Biden administration use to take money away from providers to purchase additional COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, and will the money be replenished for the PRF?

Like the prior administration, this Administration used the statutory authorities available for Provider Relief Funds, consistent with legal opinions of the HHS Office of the General Counsel. Most of the resources were funds returned from providers.

Senator Cramer

Why was money taken from the PRF when Congress has allocated billions of dollars specifically for the purchase of vaccines and therapeutics?

As the nation faced an unprecedented and soaring demand for monoclonal antibodies during the Delta wave, HHS determined that it needed to surge resources to shore up supply of these life-saving therapeutics. Therapeutics purchased with PRF funding were distributed to providers at no cost so they could meet the demand for these life-saving tools, and prevent tens of thousands of hospitalizations, lessening the burden on hospitals and saving resources for other patients.

Most of the PRF resources were funds returned from providers. Like the prior Administration, this Administration used the statutory authorities available for Provider Relief Funds, consistent with legal opinions of the HHS Office of the General Counsel.

Senator Cramer**When did these transactions occur?**

Vaccines and therapeutics purchased with PRF funding were distributed to providers at no cost so they could meet the unprecedented and soaring demand for these life-saving tools during the Delta surge, and lessen the burden on hospitals. OMB approved funding for monoclonal antibodies in August, September, and December of 2021 and funding for pediatric vaccines in September of 2021. HHS executed the procurements and has the subsequent contract information.

Senator Cramer

What specific contracts and purchases were made with these PRF funds, and where were additional vaccines and therapeutics distributed?

As the nation faced an unprecedented and soaring demand for monoclonal antibodies during the Delta wave, HHS determined that it needed to surge resources to shore up supply of these life-saving therapeutics. Therapeutics purchased with PRF funding were distributed to providers at no cost so they could meet the demand for these life-saving tools, and prevent tens of thousands of hospitalizations, lessening the burden on hospitals and saving resources for other patients. OMB approved funding for monoclonal antibodies in August, September, and December of 2021 and funding for pediatric vaccines in September of 2021. HHS executed the procurements and has the subsequent contract information.

Senator Cramer

Please provide the most recent detailed OMB-approved spend plan for the PRF that is tied to the apportionment of funds, including any footnotes or other attachments pertaining to the apportionments.

HHS has provided a detailed spend plan and other information to Congress with regard to Provider Relief Funds. I am committed to working with HHS to provide you any additional information.

Senator Crapo

Can you reiterate your commitment to following the Hyde Amendment?

I am committed to complying with and implementing the laws that are passed by Congress and signed by the President, including the Hyde Amendment.

Senator Crapo

Inflation has reached 40-year highs over the past year. What can OMB do to help arrest this dramatic increase from both a regulatory perspective? How will the Biden administration factor this dramatic inflation in when drafting the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Proposal?

The President is focused on fighting inflation, and he has laid out a three-part plan that is focused on strengthening supply chains, lowering costs for Americans through policies including lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and promoting greater competition. While I can't comment on future budgets, OMB would be involved in all three areas of the president's plan.

Senator Crapo

Given our worsening international security situation, could you describe the Biden Administration's views on increasing defense versus non-defense spending?

The Administration is committed to ensuring appropriate resources to achieve both our national security objectives and our domestic priorities. We also must evaluate the adequacy of the nation's defense resources in the context of both the evolving international security environment and our national security priorities. The President also recently signed the National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress on a bipartisan basis.

Senator Graham

In the Presidents FY2022 Budget Request, the Administration forecast the defense allocation of discretionary spending to grow at a rate of 2.2% each year from FY2023 to FY2026. While from FY2027 to FY2031 the forecasted growth slows to 1% per year. You have identified that the 1% increase is a proxy for long-run efficiencies the Administration believes may be achieved in the defense budget. Could you specifically identify the efficiencies you believe will be achieved to attain these goals?

The Administration is committed to providing the resources necessary to ensure our national defense. Decisions regarding the Future Years Defense Program and the proper long-term funding levels included in the FY 2023 Budget will be consistent with the policies included in the forthcoming National Security and National Defense strategies.

Senator Graham

Will the Administration put forward a formal spending request to provide Israel with \$1 billion for emergency replenishment of the Iron Dome funding and not just express support for such replenishment? Will this be part of the upcoming supplemental request?

The Administration strongly supports funding the replenishment of Israel's Iron Dome system. We look forward to working with Congress to see that those funds are enacted in the final FY 2022 appropriations along with the funds needed for the United States to meet additional pressing defense and domestic priorities.

Senator Kaine

The City of Virginia Beach is currently awaiting a New Start from the Army Corps of Engineers to begin work on a Comprehensive Regional Coastal Storm Risk Management Study to analyze the flood risk threats from sea level rise and coastal storms accelerated by climate change. This study is crucial to the long-term vitality and resilience of the Coastal Virginia region and to national security due to all the major defense assets and personnel located in this region. This area is home to four critical military bases, which employ 33,000 military and civilian personnel and families. If the study is approved by USACE, the City will be able to continue its efforts in mitigating sea level rise and recurrent flooding, serving as a model to coastal cities in need of more resilient infrastructure, economies and communities. OMB works closely with the Army Corps on the contents of each annual Work Plan, and the Work Plan is contingent on annual appropriations.

Q1: While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has helped clear some of the Army Corps Civil Works project backlog, many important projects remain unfunded. If Congress is unable to come to an agreement in passing Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations, how will that inhibit the Army Corps in taking on projects of critical need, such as those that are meant to protect our communities and national security from the present threats posed by climate change?

Q2: Once we get appropriations funded - do you commit to prioritizing New Starts that, like the Coastal Virginia study, are critical to protecting communities from sea level rise and other climate crises?

Q1: During the period that the Congress provides funding to the Corps through short term continuing appropriations, the Army Corps of Engineers civil works program (Corps) is not able to use its annual funding to begin any program, project, or activity, including those that are meant to reduce flood risks to our communities from the present threats posed by climate change.

Q2: The Administration is committed to helping communities affected by climate change. The President has directed Federal agencies, working within their authorities, to consider and address climate change. The civil works program of the Corps is part of this government-wide effort. My office is working with the Corps and the other Federal agencies to help to reduce risks to our communities from the climate crisis, and will continue to do so.

Senator Sanders

The President's budget request for FY2022 states: "The Administration... looks forward to working with the Congress to advance the President's goal of doubling the Federal investment in community health centers, which would help reduce health disparities by expanding access to care."¹

Community health centers have been critical to the Biden administration's COVID-19 response. To date, health centers have administered COVID-19 tests to more than 17 million Americans² and have vaccinated nearly 19 million patients³ against COVID-19. Most recently, hundreds of community health centers have begun distributing free N95 respirator masks to the public, as well as doses of COVID-19 therapeutics.⁴

Health centers' efforts in the fight against COVID-19 have been impressive, to say the least. However, more could be done with additional resources. Even before the pandemic, about 29 million Americans per year were receiving needed care through community health centers.⁵

Deputy Director Young, if confirmed, will you work with the President to achieve his commitment to double the federal investment in community health centers? How will the President's FY2023 budget request reflect this commitment?

As noted in the President's 2022 Budget, the Administration wants to work with the Congress to advance the President's goal of doubling the Federal investment in community health centers. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to achieve this goal.

Senator Sanders

In January 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, which included directing the Department of Energy (DOE) to revise and update energy efficiency standards to align with the administration's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create good jobs. While DOE has made some progress in implementing this executive order, many critical actions have been delayed, including remaining revisions to DOE's "Process Rule," revocation of incorrect legal conclusions regarding gas-using residential furnaces and commercial water heaters, restoration of important light bulb definitions, and elimination of illegal "short-cycle" product classes. According to a recent report in the Washington Post, some of these DOE proposals to update energy efficiency standards have been stalled due the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) review process.

Deputy Director Young, if confirmed, will you commit to ensuring expedited action, including OIRA review, of DOE's energy efficiency standards? If confirmed, what concrete steps will you take to ensure this program gets back on track and OMB/OIRA review is completed in an expeditious manner?

Energy efficiency is a high priority of this Administration, and we look forward to reviewing these actions consistent with EO 12866 and the President's priorities. We look forward to working with our agency partners as they work on this critical issue.

Senator Scott

As Governor of Florida, I signed Senate Bill 10 that created the path forward for the EAA reservoir, a critical component for the restoration of America's Everglades. While the State of Florida is well underway on their portion of the EAA reservoir, the Federal government has yet to begin construction. As I noted in my December 7, 2021 letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the USACE Jacksonville District needs the ability to utilize the Continuing Contract Authority, alongside significant financial investment, to get this project on track.

Can you please share whether this administration intends to enable the Jacksonville District of the USACE to utilize this existing regulation as part of the FY23 President's budget to prioritize restoration of America's Everglades?

The Administration has made restoration of America's Everglades a priority. The importance of this world-class ecosystem to the Administration is evidenced by the historic \$1.1 billion investment allocated to its restoration from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The \$1.1 billion provided by President Biden's infrastructure bill is allocated to projects consistent with the Everglades Restoration Program delivery schedule. This schedule represents the plan developed with the State of Florida to establish priorities to achieve Everglades Restoration. Additionally, the 2022 President's Budget includes \$350 million for the Corps South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program for construction of Everglades restoration projects, including funding for the Everglades Agricultural Area A-2 reservoir project. We look forward to working with Congress to see that those funds are enacted in the final FY 2022 appropriations.

Senator Toomey

The Office of Management and Budget has a role in the Administration's effort to bring federal employees back to in-person work through the Safer Federal Worker Taskforce. Currently, Social Security field offices throughout the country remain closed, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a backlog of over 250,000 claims, and the Internal Revenue Service has a backlog of 6 million individual tax returns and 2.3 million amended individual tax returns. Also of note, the Biden Administration announced in November 2021 that at least 90 percent of the federal workforce is now vaccinated against COVID-19. This lack of adequate public services on behalf of the federal workforce is simply unacceptable.

Will you commit to working to ensure a timely and expedited return to in-person work for the federal workforce?

Agency efforts toward a safe, increased return of Federal employees to physical workplaces are underway. In collaboration with OPM and GSA, OMB has issued guidance to agencies regarding planning for safe, increased return of Federal employees to physical workplaces and for the personnel policies and work environments that agencies will be putting in place and evaluation after that reentry takes places. OMB guidance in OMB Memorandum M-21-25 notes that "agencies' decisions must be guided by how they can most effectively achieve their respective missions." Consistent with OMB and Safer Federal Workforce Task Force guidance, agency parameters for who works in person and when and how to have workers come into the office, work in the field, or work from home are shaped by operational considerations, as well as a commitment to the wellbeing of the Federal workforce.

Senator Van Hollen

Last month members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation sent you a letter urging you to support the Public Building Reform Board's (PBRB) recommendation of an inter-agency transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the 105-acre parcel owned by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center known as Area 400.

Additionally, Members of the Delegation sent a letter in support of transferring land known as Parcel K, currently part of the Food and Drug Administration's White Oak Campus, as a Public Benefit Conveyance (PBC) to the Montgomery County Parks Department, part of the Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

OMB's response to the PBRB's recommendations was to reject the entire slate of recommendations for several reasons including insufficient information regarding stakeholder outreach and insufficient information on projects implementation costs. PBRB must resubmit their recommendations by February 27, 2022.

When reviewing these recommendations will you take into account the desires of the local communities and support the sale or transfer of these properties for public use?

OMB reviewed the Public Buildings Reform Board's initial Round One submission under FASTA and found that several areas required additional effort prior to an OMB final review and determination. In my letter to the Board, I indicated that stakeholder consideration, including local communities, is an important part of the FASTA process and one of the reasons for my rejection of the recommendations.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 26, 2022

Public Buildings Reform Board
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

To the Board:

I am writing in response to your transmittal of your Round 1 submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on December 27, 2021. I appreciate the PBRB's efforts to advance implementation of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (FASTA). I also appreciate the PBRB's ongoing engagement with OMB and the General Services Administration (GSA).

The purpose of FASTA implementation is to reduce the costs of Federal real estate and to return value to the taxpayers. OMB wholeheartedly supports these goals. We have encouraged the PBRB to recommend properties where financial and other data indicate that their disposal would be successful in achieving the statutory purposes. As our agencies have discussed over the last year, the PBRB should evaluate its prospective recommendations against three key criteria: financial planning, stakeholder consultation, and schedule. As we explained in a December 1, 2021 letter to the PBRB, these criteria are central to OMB's decision whether to approve the PBRB's submission.

OMB has reviewed the PBRB's submission and concluded the submission does not adequately address the key criteria for the following reasons:

Financial Planning. The PBRB recommendations lack sufficient information on project implementation costs and depend on outyear budget requests to support implementation. As described in the December letter, an integrated financial plan for each recommended project should show how all the associated costs will be executed within the PBRB's currently available resources. Consistent with the PBRB approach under the High Value Round, the plan should include funding of all necessary relocations. In addition to the balance currently available in the Fund, GSA has recently deposited proceeds from the sale of High Value Round properties; these proceeds are subject to Congressional appropriation. The PBRB should identify all relevant costs and make specific recommendations for how to utilize Fund resources to support costs necessary for implementation. Before OMB can approve of the use of FASTA authorities to dispose of particular properties, we need more information regarding why those authorities, and not GSA's Title 40 process, are the appropriate means for effecting the disposal.

Stakeholder Consultation. For several of the identified properties, the PBRB has not provided sufficient information regarding its stakeholder outreach for OMB to assess the

position of members of Congress, affected Tribal governments, the general public, and the agencies occupying facilities. It also appears that the PBRB has not met with tenant agencies affected by the action; it has met only with the custodial agency. Further, the PBRB has not provided any evidence that it conducted any virtual public meetings with interested local community stakeholders. Even for properties already scheduled for disposal under Title 40, the PBRB should have consulted with these stakeholders prior to recommending their diversion to the FASTA process.


Schedule. Two of the proposed properties are at risk of not meeting schedule requirements due to environmental compliance responsibilities.

It also appears additional coordination between GSA and the PBRB may be needed, particularly regarding whether the individual and integrated financial plans will result in successful execution. As we noted in the December letter, GSA and the PBRB should agree prior to the recommendations being submitted to OMB because GSA is the Government's disposal agent. The PBRB proposes multiple project dispositions that leverage GSA's Title 40 disposal authorities, including negotiated sale and public benefit conveyance provisions, but GSA has raised implementation concerns with several of these dispositions.

The project implementation issues outlined above prevent OMB from fully assessing the risk return profile for each recommended property. To that end, we are unable to conclude that the risks to the Government posed by the disposition of the proposed properties are acceptable to the taxpayer.

I am therefore disapproving the PBRB's initial submission of its Round 1 recommendation. I have transmitted to the Congress the reason for this disapproval. The Board now has 30 days to resubmit its recommendation to OMB. OMB recommends that the PBRB coordinate closely with GSA prior to resubmission to determine whether the recommendations propose appropriate implementation authorities and are executable within available resource and schedule constraints.

Sincerely,



Shalanda D. Young
Acting Director

Attachments
Final Letter to FASTA Board 12.1.21

Senator Warner

With the recent release of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds, pending full-year FY22 appropriations, and the upcoming FY23 President's Budget request, how is OMB evaluating priorities to ensure the latest information and estimates are considered to keep projects like the recently initiated Norfolk Harbor Deepening and Widening Project and the City of Norfolk's Coastal Storm Risk Management Project on track and funded to completion? As you know, USACE has over \$100 billion worth of backlogged projects, so it is important that USACE and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have plans in place to ensure the timely completion of initiated USACE projects.

In developing the Budget and reviewing work plans allocating funds appropriated by Congress, OMB works closely with the Army Corps of Engineers, which provides the information such as cost estimates and technical details for all eligible projects that are under consideration for funding.

Senator Whitehouse

Our complicated tax code prevents many qualifying students from reaping the full benefits of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) and the Pell Grant program. Currently, students are required to subtract their Pell Grant from the amount of expenses for which they claim the AOTC, leading many without sophisticated tax planners to leave money on the table or simply unable to qualify for the tax credit, despite substantial remaining college costs.

My Tax-Free Pell Grant Act would fix this problem by better coordinating these two programs and fully exempting Pell Grants from taxable income. It would help an estimated 730,000 low- and moderate-income students afford college every year, particularly community college students.

Will you commit to working with me to advance this modest reform?

The President has proposed historic increases to the Pell Grant, the foundation of low- and middle-income students' financial aid. I look forward to working with you to ensure all students have an accessible and affordable path to a degree, and ensuring students can easily access and benefit from the full amount of their Pell Grant.

Senator Whitehouse

For decades, small- and medium-size manufacturers relied on a generation of workers that are now beginning to retire—a shift that has only accelerated during the pandemic. Unfortunately, many manufacturing businesses—including those in my home state of Rhode Island—have difficulty finding properly trained replacements for their aging workforce and risk losing critical institutional knowledge. These manufacturers are often unable to pay for two employees to serve in the same position for a period of overlap, which is why I partnered with Senator Inhofe to introduce the Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence Act, or “RIME Act.” The bill would establish a \$10 million pilot program to allow small and medium-sized manufacturers to retain retiring employees for 90 days—allowing them to train a replacement and transfer their institutional knowledge.

Does the administration support programs like this that would strengthen America’s manufacturing capacity?

The Administration is strongly committed to bolstering domestic manufacturing, and has proposed that NIST’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program expand to take a stronger leadership role in supporting small and medium-sized manufacturers. Specifically, the FY 2022 Budget requested \$275 million for the program, an increase of \$125 million. These funds would help existing MEP centers expand their reach to additional firms and broaden the services they provide, including workforce training. We are also tasking the MEP program to conduct supplier scouting in order to facilitate the successful execution of Buy America and Buy American requirements. We look forward to working with you on the Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence (RIME) Act as it seeks to provide MEP with additional tools to provide funds directly to firms. This authority could take the program in a new direction, and we need to carefully assess the potential tradeoffs.

Senator Whitehouse

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), created by then-Senator Biden's legislation, is statutorily tasked with developing and implementing our nation's drug control strategy. The prior administration proposed gutting ONDCP's budget and staffing every year. The United States is in the midst of a drug abuse epidemic which claimed more than 101,000 lives, including 415,000 Rhode Islanders, during the 12-month period ending in June 2021, a record for any 12-month period. ONDCP must be fully resourced and staffed in order to effectively execute the national drug control strategy. The administration must also prioritize substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs across federal agencies—such as those created by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act I wrote with Sen. Portman—in order to stem the tide of this epidemic.

Will you work with me to ensure that ONDCP is adequately resourced and staffed, and that funding for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs are prioritized?

I recognize ONDCP's important work in leading and coordinating the nation's drug policy. The 2022 President's Budget proposed increased staffing at ONDCP and invests an historic high of 57% of drug control funding in expanding research, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services. We look forward to working with you and the rest of Congress on this important issue.

Senator Whitehouse

EO 13990, “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis,” directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to revise and update appliance and building energy efficiency standards to help meet the administration’s greenhouse gas reduction targets. While there has been some progress, many standards still await final action. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring prompt Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) review of DOE’s pending energy efficiency standards?

Energy efficiency is a high priority of this Administration, and we look forward to reviewing these actions consistent with EO 12866 and the President’s priorities. We look forward to working with our agency partner as they work on this critical issue.

Senator Whitehouse

In addition to the standards mentioned above, the Biden administration has the opportunity to update dozens of energy efficiency regulations this term. What steps will you take to ensure OIRA and OMB review future energy efficiency regulations in a timely manner?

Energy efficiency is a high priority of this Administration, and we look forward to reviewing these actions consistent with EO 12866 and the President's priorities. We look forward to working with our agency partners as they work on this critical issue.

Senator Wyden

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 commit to looking into this issue and, if confirmed, will you consider using any executive authority 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 is periodically reviewed for currency by a set of interagency technical experts through a long-established process, keeping only statistical purposes in mind to ensure the independence and objectivity of these standards. Most recently, OMB issued the 2018 revision to the SOC. If confirmed, I will commit to looking at this specific issue while ensuring the objectivity and integrity of OMB's statistical standards.

Senator Wyden

Has the Biden Administration reviewed the Trump policy that requires IRS rules to be reviewed by OMB before promulgation? What are the benefits and downsides to this policy? Has the Administration made a decision on whether to continue this policy going forward?

Under EO 12866, OMB is charged to coordinate review of agency rulemakings to ensure that regulations are consistent with applicable law, the President's priorities, and the principles set forth in EO 12866. The April 2018 Memorandum of Agreement between the Treasury Department and OMB, which brought IRS and several other Treasury components under the requirements of Executive Order 12866, is still in effect. We look forward to working collaboratively on advancing IRS regulations.

Senator Wyden

According to GAO, OMB has failed to issue the statutorily-required guidance required by the OPEN Data Act of 2018 and without this guidance agencies are unable to implement comprehensive data inventories required by the Act. What is the latest status of OMB's efforts to implement the requirements of the OPEN Data Act, including the delayed issuance of Phase II implementation guidelines to agencies and the delayed publication of the required reports on agency performance and compliance? If confirmed, what will you do to ensure that OMB promptly implements the law?

I believe that making Federal data appropriately open to the public is critical to advancing evidence-based policies and ensuring their equitable delivery. If confirmed as OMB Director, I commit to continuing to work toward this goal, including through the issuance of "Phase II" implementation guidance and improved processes around reporting agency performance and compliance.

Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Ms. Nani A. Coloretti
Nominee to be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget
February 1, 2022

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

It is a privilege to come before you as President Biden's nominee for Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I'd like to thank the members of the committee for considering my nomination, and the many members who took the time to speak with me before this hearing. And thank you to Senator Padilla for his kind words of introduction. I'd also like to thank President Biden for putting his confidence in me. I'm honored and humbled by this nomination.

I'd also like to recognize my husband of 24 years, David Goldstein, here with me today; and my son, Kaleo Goldstein-Coloretti, supporting me virtually from college. And I'd like to thank the many family members and friends watching this hearing from Hawaii to the East Coast.

Finally, I'd like to recognize my parents, Tony and Marielani Coloretti, who both passed away over five years ago. It is through their sacrifices that I am able to sit here today.

My mom and dad both had immigrant parents who came to America in search of a better life for themselves and their children. My parents worked hard to support my four sisters and me; my mom was a preschool teacher and then a home-based child care provider, and my dad worked in restaurants and on cruise ships. Later on, I would also work in restaurants, which, along with federal student loans and Pell grants, helped me finance my education. My parents taught me to focus on hard work and education, as well as the importance of curiosity and empathy. It is from them that I developed a passion for service, and a commitment to expanding opportunity for all.

I come before you as a public servant and leader with over 25 years of experience in federal, state and local government service and in the private and nonprofit sectors. Much of my work has focused on helping deliver better outcomes for people, families and taxpayers. In fact, my first federal service was as a program examiner at the Office of Management and Budget many years ago.

I know first-hand that OMB has a critical role to play in implementing the President's priorities, touching every spending and policy decision in the federal government and collaborating across agencies to deliver results effectively and efficiently.

My work during the Obama-Biden Administration – as Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and before that, as Assistant Secretary for Management and Acting CFO for

Treasury – focused on using data to make better decisions, implementing new programs, and strengthening the organizations I led.

At HUD, I managed the Department's day-to-day operations, facilitated cross-cutting policy and regulatory issues, and oversaw a \$45 billion budget and approximately 8,000 employees. As Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Management and Acting CFO, I helped stand up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and helped create Treasury's quarterly data-driven decision framework to prioritize projects, align resources, and measure progress.

I also understand how budget and policy decisions in Washington D.C. affect local policy, having worked in San Francisco local government for ten years. During the 2008 recession, I helped close a deficit worth half of San Francisco's discretionary budget, aided in the end by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

If confirmed, I would be honored to work with the President and Congress to create and implement budgets that invest in the American people, support our economic recovery, and reflect our country's shared values.

Thank you again for considering my nomination and I look forward to answering 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:** (Include any former names used.) Nani A Coloretti
2. **Position to which nominated:** Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget
3. **Date of nomination:** December 2, 2021
4. **Address:** (REDACTED)
5. **Date and place of birth:** (REDACTED) 1969, (REDACTED) California
6. **Marital status:** (Include name of spouse.): (REDACTED)
7. **Names and ages of children:** (REDACTED)
8. **Education:** List secondary and higher education institutions, dates attended, degree received and date degree granted.

<u>Institution attended</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Degrees received</u>	<u>Dates of degrees</u>
University of Pennsylvania	8/87 - 5/91	B.A. Economics & Communications	May 1991
UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy	8/92 - 5/94	Master's in Public Policy	May 1994

9. **Employment record:** List all jobs held since college, including the title or description of job, name of employer, location of work, and dates of employment. (Please use separate attachment, if necessary.)

URBAN INSTITUTE
Position: Senior Vice President, Financial and Business Strategy

Location: Washington, D.C.
 Dates: February 2017 – present
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
 Position: Deputy Secretary
 Location: Washington, D.C.
 Dates: December 2014 – January 2017

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Positions:

- Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer nominee
- Acting Assistant Secretary for Management
- Acting Chief Operating Officer of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (detailed from Treasury to set up CFPB)
- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget

Location: Washington, D.C.
 Dates: September 2009 – December 2014

OFFICE OF MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Positions:

- Budget Director
- Policy Director
- Deputy Policy Director

Location: San Francisco, CA
 Dates: August 2005 – September 2009

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Position: Director of Policy, Planning and Budget
 Location: San Francisco, CA
 Dates: May 1999 – August 2005

LAW AND ECONOMICS CONSULTING GROUP (LECG, INC.)

Position: Public Policy Group Coordinator / Consultant
 Location: Emeryville, CA
 Dates: August 1997 – April 1999

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)

Position: Health Financing Branch Program Examiner
 Location: Washington, D.C.
 Dates: August 1994 – August 1997

U.S. SENATE, OFFICE OF SENATOR BOB GRAHAM

Position: Health Fellow (Presidential Management Intern Rotation)
 Location: Washington, D.C.
 Dates: June 1996 – September 1996

CRATE AND BARREL

Position: Retail Seasonal Worker
 Location: Washington, D.C.
 Dates: October – December 1994 (estimated)

SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER, UC Berkeley

Position: Researcher
 Location: Berkeley, CA

Dates: June 1994 – August 1994

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Position: Graduate Student Instructor/Researcher (Library Assistant and TA for undergraduate budget class)

Location: Berkeley, CA

Dates: January 1993 – May 1993; August 1993– May 1994

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (State of Hawaii)

Position: Budget Analyst

Location: Honolulu, HI

Dates: July 1991 – August 1992

HONOLULU CLUB LOUNGE

Position: Server

Location: Honolulu, HI

Dates: June 1992 – August 1992; during holiday December 1992 (estimated, various dates)

CAFE ASIA

Position: Server

Location: Honolulu, HI

Dates: June 1991 – August 1992

10. **Government experience:** List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above.

N/A

11. **Business relationships:** List all positions currently or formerly held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise, educational or other institution.

BANK OF THE WEST

Independent Director

October 2018-present

URBAN INSTITUTE

Treasurer (2017-present) and Corporate Secretary (2017-2018)

12. **Memberships:** List all memberships and offices currently or formerly held in professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, public, charitable and other organizations.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS

Fellow (2015 - present)

PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Strategic Advisors to Government Executives (SAGE)

Member/Advisor (2017 – present)

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.

N/A

- (b) List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered to all political parties or election committees during the last 10 years.

N/A

- (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.

None

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.

- Social Security Advisory Board, IT Systems Advisory Panel, Member, 2019-2020
- National Association for Public Administration (NAPA) fellow, 2015 – present
- Partnership for Public Service, Strategic Advisors for Government Executives (SAGE), 2017-present
- UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy Special Award for Policy Innovation, 2014
- Fed 100 Award, 2014
- National Public Service Award (NPSA), 2012
- Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Alumni Achievement Award, 2011
- Government Finance Officer's Association, Distinguished Budget Presentation (2007, 2008 and 2009)
- Presidential Management Intern (now called Fellow), 1994-96
- Woodrow Wilson Fellow (now called PPIA), 1992-93
- University of Pennsylvania Sphinx Senior Society, Scribe, 1990-91

15. **Published writings:** List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, or other published materials which you have written.

I have done my best to identify titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials, including a thorough review of personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. Despite my searches, there may be other materials I have been unable to identify, find or remember. I have located the following:

Paper written with the Social Security Advisory Board IT Systems Expert Panel (An independent panel commissioned by the Social Security Advisory Board) – this was a product written by a group of ten “Essential Changes Imperative for the Success of Social Security’s IT Modernization and Future Operations,” December 2020

Paper written with an ad-hoc task force on Assessing Management Quality, “Creating and Supporting a Management Quality Improvement Learning Center for Federal Managers,” January 2021

Shah, Tajel & Nani Coloretto (Spring 2004), Using Technology to Link Evaluation and Funding: San Francisco’s Contract Management System, The Evaluation Exchange, Harvard Family Research Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education Volume X Number 1

16. **Speeches:** Provide the Committee with four copies of any formal speeches you have delivered during the last 5 years which you have copies of and are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated.

None in the last five years.

17. **Selection:**

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

I have spent almost 30 years in the public, non-profit and private sectors, helping organizations deliver measurable results, improve performance, and achieve their goals.

I have over 11 years of prior federal government experience, including 8 years in the Obama Administration, where I helped implement new programs while strengthening each organization I led. I served as the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for over 2 years, where I was responsible for managing the department's day to day operations, overseeing a budget of \$45 billion and approximately 8,000 employees. In addition to my time at HUD, I served as Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Management and Acting CFO, where I was responsible for all operational areas of Treasury and managed the Department's ten bureaus through performance, budget, strategic and operational policy guidance. While there, I helped implement the Dodd-Frank Act by building the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and created Treasury's quarterly data-driven decision framework to prioritize projects, align resources, and measure progress.

I also have over 11 years of experience at the local and state government levels in budget, policy and implementation. From 2005-09, I worked in the San Francisco Mayor's office, serving as Budget and Policy Director, where I oversaw a \$6.2 billion annual budget. If confirmed, I would have the opportunity to help lead an organization where I started my federal service. I was a Presidential Management Fellow at the Office of Management and Budget from 1994-97, where I worked in the health financing branch. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve the federal government in this capacity.

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

No

- (c) Have you made any commitments with respect to the policies and principles you will attempt to implement in the position for which you have been nominated? If so, please identify such commitment(s) and all persons to whom such commitment(s) have been made.

No

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.

There is no such activity.

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.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics and the Office of Management and Budget Ethics General Counsel to identify potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of an ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Office of Management and Budget and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest

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.

I am not aware of any additional information that should be considered.

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
 - (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.

(REDACTED)

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)

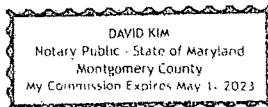
AFFIDAVIT

I, Nani A. Coloretti 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 22nd day of December, 20 21

Nani A. Coloretti

Notary Public



**U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget
Pre-hearing Questionnaire
For the Nomination of Nani Coloretto
to be Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget**

I. Sen. Sanders, Chairman

1. Will you commit that, if confirmed, you will work with me toward advancing the following goals?

- a. Raising the federal minimum wage to at least \$15 an hour.

A: 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 over the course of few years. 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.

- b. Crafting legislation and rules to ensure that all Americans who wish to join a union can do so.

A: The President cares deeply about protecting workers' rights, including the critical right of every worker to organize, bargain collectively, and join a union. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing policies that strengthen labor protections, make it easier for workers to join labor organizations, and increase accountability for violations of federal labor law. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to protect workers' rights, and will continue to strongly enforce existing laws that protect the rights of workers to form and join a union.

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

A: The President is committed to making college more affordable and to helping borrowers manage their student loan payments by reducing the burden of student debt. The President's FY 2022 Budget proposed free community college; tuition subsidies for low- and middle-income students enrolled in four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and minority-serving institutions; and support for college completion.

The Administration has also used its current authority to take a number of steps over the past year to support students and borrowers, including approving \$1.5 billion in borrower defense claims, extending full relief to borrowers with approved claims, and approving new types of claims. The Department of Education cancelled \$7.8 billion in loans for borrowers who received a total and permanent disability

discharge. Additionally, the changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program being implemented through October 31, 2022, have led to almost \$5 billion in loan forgiveness for more than 70,000 public servants. In addition, the Administration is conducting negotiated rulemaking in order to make income-driven repayment more generous so that no borrower will have to make a loan payment they cannot afford. The Administration will continue to use its authority where appropriate to help borrowers and looks forward to working with Congress on proposals to tackle the burden of student debt.

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

A: The President supports lowering the Medicare eligibility age to provide health care coverage options for individuals nearing retirement and adding Medicare coverage for hearing, vision and dental services. If confirmed, I am committed to working with Congress on the President's agenda to expand health coverage and lower health costs so that older Americans can access the affordable care they need.

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

A: The President's FY 2022 Budget supported reforms that would bring down drug prices by letting Medicare negotiate payment for certain high-cost drugs. If confirmed, I am committed to working with Congress to support legislative efforts to enable the government to negotiate prescription drug prices and require manufacturers to pay rebates when drug prices rise faster than inflation. These efforts would increase competition, reduce drug prices, and lower out of pocket costs for patients at the pharmacy counter.

- f. Expanding and improving long-term home health care to make sure that senior citizens and persons with disabilities can receive the care they need in their homes by well-paid workers instead of being forced into expensive, inadequate, and understaffed nursing homes.

A: The President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget supported major investments to expand home and community-based care for older people and people with disabilities and to improve conditions for home care workers. The Administration is committed to expanding and improving home and community-based services, and if confirmed, I will work with Congress toward that shared goal.

- g. Establishing a federal guarantee of at least 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave.

A: 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. The 2022 President’s Budget included a national comprehensive paid family and medical leave program, which provides 12 weeks of paid leave by year 10 of the program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored 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 the rest of the world in ensuring paid family and medical leave for those who need it. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress to accomplish this.

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

A: Providing pre-kindergarten education and affordable childcare is a top priority of the Administration. The Administration included a proposal in the President’s FY 2022 Budget that would provide direct support to low- and middle-income families for high-quality and affordable child care, and provide universal, high-quality preschool to all three- and four-year-olds so they are able to grow, learn, and gain the skills they need to succeed.

I worked on this issue in 2004 in San Francisco, as part of the effort to launch Preschool for All, publicly funded universal preschool now available to all 4-year olds. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress to provide support to low- and middle-income families to ensure they have access to high quality child care.

- i. 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.

A: This Administration is eager to work with Congress to make long-overdue investments in our nation’s K-12 students and schools. While the American Rescue Plan included \$122 billion to help schools reopen and meet students’ pandemic-related needs, the Administration believes we need additional, sustained investment in our schools to address longstanding inequities and ensure every student can learn and thrive.

The President’s FY 2022 Budget proposed significant increases in Department of Education K-12 programs including a \$20 billion increase in Title I, more than double the 2021 funding level, to help schools deliver a high-quality education to students from low-income families. The Budget also proposed a \$2.6 billion increase

in IDEA state grants, which would increase the Federal share of the cost of providing services to students with disabilities for the first time in eight years. The Budget proposed \$10 billion in 2022, and \$50 billion over five years for investments in school infrastructure. The Administration also recognizes the significant toll school closures and disruptions have had on students' mental health and has proposed significant investments in school mental health professionals and community schools that provide comprehensive services to students and their families.

- j. 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.

A: The President's FY 2022 Budget 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. If confirmed, 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.

- k. Ensuring all Americans have access to free, high-quality N95 masks and rapid antigen tests to protect themselves from COVID-19.

A: The Administration is committed to expanding access to high quality masks and testing. If confirmed, I am committed to working with you to ensure these activities are properly funded.

- l. Establishing the strongest possible rules to ensure all Americans receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

A: Since its first day, the Administration has made vaccination a critical part of its COVID-19 response and it still is now. If confirmed, I will ensure that OMB works with the White House COVID-19 Response team and Federal agencies to support a whole-of-government effort to increase vaccination.

- m. Demanding that the wealthiest people and most profitable corporations in America pay their fair share of taxes by, among other things, repealing all of the Trump tax breaks that went to the top one percent and large companies.

A: The President has been clear and consistent that he believes the wealthiest Americans must pay their fair share—and that billionaires shouldn't pay lower tax

rates than everyday families. The President supports rolling back the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduction in the top ordinary tax rate on income above \$400,000 from 39.6% to 37% so that the highest earners contribute more of their fair share. The President also supports rolling back the reduction in the corporate tax rate – raising it to 28 percent from 21 percent – and raising taxes on corporate profits hidden in tax havens. The Administration successfully negotiated a historic agreement among over one hundred countries to set a global minimum tax on corporations, to crack down on corporate tax havens.

Questions for the Record

For Nani A. Coloretti

“Nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget”

February 1, 2022

Senate Budget Committee

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Senator Crapo

Are you committed to enforcing the Hyde Amendment as a matter of law at OMB?

If confirmed, it will be my responsibility to follow the laws adopted by Congress and signed by the President.

Senator Toomey

The Office of Management and Budget has a role in the Administration's effort to bring federal employees back to in-person work through the Safer Federal Worker Taskforce. Currently, Social Security field offices throughout the country remain closed, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a backlog of over 250,000 claims, and the Internal Revenue Service has a backlog of 6 million individual tax returns and 2.3 million amended individual tax returns. Also of note, the Biden Administration announced in November 2021 that at least 90 percent of the federal workforce is now vaccinated against COVID-19. This lack of adequate public services on behalf of the federal workforce is simply unacceptable.

Will you commit to working to ensure a timely and expedited return to in-person work for the federal workforce?

If confirmed, I look forward to being briefed on the status of agency plans for a safe, increased return of Federal employees to physical agency workplaces. If confirmed, I also look forward to learning more about agency plans to safely support in-person services as well as a hybrid work environment that can advance Federal agency missions and help agencies recruit and retain top talent from across the country.

Senator Whitehouse

Our complicated tax code prevents many qualifying students from reaping the full benefits of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) and the Pell Grant program. Currently, students are required to subtract their Pell Grant from the amount of expenses for which they claim the AOTC, leading many without sophisticated tax planners to leave money on the table or simply unable to qualify for the tax credit, despite substantial remaining college costs.

My Tax-Free Pell Grant Act would fix this problem by better coordinating these two programs and fully exempting Pell Grants from taxable income. It would help an estimated 730,000 low- and moderate-income students afford college every year, particularly community college students.

Will you commit to working with me to advance this modest reform?

The President has consistently and repeatedly demonstrated his deep commitment to the Pell program, including by proposing historic increases to the maximum grant. As you know, Pell Grants serve as the foundation for low- and middle-income students' financial aid and are a critical investment in our nation's future. I am open to all ideas for policies that would help ensure all students have an accessible and affordable path to a degree and that we are maximizing the impact of the Pell Grant program for as many students as possible.

Senator Whitehouse

For decades, small- and medium-size manufacturers relied on a generation of workers that are now beginning to retire—a shift that has only accelerated during the pandemic. Unfortunately, many manufacturing businesses—including those in my home state of Rhode Island—have difficulty finding properly trained replacements for their aging workforce and risk losing critical institutional knowledge. These manufacturers are often unable to pay for two employees to serve in the same position for a period of overlap, which is why I partnered with Senator Inhofe to introduce the Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence Act, or “RIME Act.” The bill would establish a \$10 million pilot program to allow small and medium-sized manufacturers to retain retiring employees for 90 days—allowing them to train a replacement and transfer their institutional knowledge.

Do you support programs like this that would strengthen America’s manufacturing capacity?

I do support programs that would strengthen American’s manufacturing capacity. I applaud the Administration for its strong commitment to bolstering domestic manufacturing. In particular, I know that in the President’s FY22 Budget, he requested a significant increase in funding for NIST’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program to expand their reach, broaden their services, and take a larger role in supporting small and medium-sized manufacturers. And I share your interest in ensuring that we have a sufficiently deep and well-trained workforce so that all manufacturers, regardless of their size, can succeed. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on the Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence (RIME) Act and other ideas to ensure that the United States leads the world in manufacturing.

Senator Whitehouse

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), created by then-Senator Biden's legislation, is statutorily tasked with developing and implementing our nation's drug control strategy. The prior administration proposed gutting ONDCP's budget and staffing every year. The United States is in the midst of a drug abuse epidemic which claimed more than 101,000 lives, including 415,000 Rhode Islanders, during the 12-month period ending in June 2021, a record for any 12-month period. ONDCP must be fully resourced and staffed in order to effectively execute the national drug control strategy. The administration must also prioritize substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs across federal agencies—such as those created by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act I wrote with Sen. Portman—in order to stem the tide of this epidemic.

Will you work with me to ensure that ONDCP is adequately resourced and staffed, and that funding for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery programs are prioritized?

ONDCP plays a critical role in leading and coordinating the nation's drug policy. As such, it is vital that ONDCP have the resources and staff to meet the many challenges we are facing, particularly with regard to the ongoing opioid epidemic. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you to ensure that ONDCP has the right resources to expand research, prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services.

Senator Whitehouse

EO 13990, “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis,” directed the Department of Energy (DOE) to revise and update appliance and building energy efficiency standards to help meet the administration’s greenhouse gas reduction targets. While there has been some progress, many standards still await final action.

If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring prompt Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) review of DOE's pending energy efficiency standards?

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing energy efficiency. Under longstanding processes of review under Executive Order 12866, OMB reviews agency rulemakings to ensure that regulations are consistent with applicable law, the President’s priorities, and the analytical principles set forth in EO 12866. If confirmed, I would work to advance these priorities.

Senator Whitehouse

In addition to the standards mentioned above, the Biden administration has the opportunity to update dozens of energy efficiency regulations this term.

What steps will you take to ensure OIRA and OMB review future energy efficiency regulations in a timely manner?

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to advancing energy efficiency. Under longstanding processes of review under Executive Order 12866, OMB reviews agency rulemakings to ensure that regulations are consistent with applicable law, the President's priorities, and the analytical principles set forth in EO 12866. If confirmed, I would work to advance these priorities.

Senator Wyden

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 commit to looking into this issue and, if confirmed, will you consider using any executive authority to reclassify 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers in the SOC?

If confirmed, I look forward to working with you on this issue and to better understanding options for executive authority for reclassification.

Senator Wyden

Has the Biden Administration reviewed the Trump policy that requires IRS rules to be reviewed by OMB before promulgation? What are the benefits and downsides to this policy? Has the Administration made a decision on whether to continue this policy going forward?

Under longstanding processes of EO 12866, OMB is charged with reviewing agency rulemakings to ensure that regulations are consistent with applicable law, the President's priorities, and the analytical principles set forth in EO 12866. Under the April 2018 Memorandum of Agreement between the Treasury Department and OMB, some IRS rules come in for OMB review. If confirmed, I look forward to working collaboratively on advancing IRS regulations.

Senator Wyden

According to GAO, OMB has failed to issue the statutorily-required guidance required by the OPEN Data Act of 2018 and without this guidance agencies are unable to implement comprehensive data inventories required by the Act. What is the latest status of OMB's efforts to implement the requirements of the OPEN Data Act, including the delayed issuance of Phase II implementation guidelines to agencies and the delayed publication of the required reports on agency performance and compliance? If confirmed, what will you do to ensure that OMB promptly implements the law?

I believe that advancing evidence-based policies and ensuring equitable delivery of programs relies on opening Federal data appropriately and securely to the public, while protecting privacy. If confirmed, I commit to working with the OMB Director in support of this goal.

**EXECUTIVE BUSINESS MEETING TO CON-
SIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF THE HONOR-
ABLE SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA,
TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MAN-
AGEMENT AND BUDGET AND THE HONOR-
ABLE NANI A. COLORETTI, OF CALIFORNIA,
TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE
OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 11:49 a.m., in Room S-120, The Capitol, Hon. Bernard Sanders, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Sanders, Murray, Wyden, Whitehouse, Merkley, Kaine, Van Hollen, Padilla, Graham, Grassley, Johnson, and Braun.

Chairman SANDERS. I call this Committee meeting to order.

We will be voting to report the nominations Shalanda Young and Nani Coloretti to be Director and Deputy Director, respectively, of the Office of Management and Budget.

The first question before the Committee is the nomination of Shalanda Young to be Director of OMB. A quorum is present.

I support the nominee and urge a yes vote.

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

The Clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Mrs. Murray.

Senator MURRAY. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Wyden.

Senator WYDEN. Aye.

The CLERK. Ms. Stabenow.

Chairman SANDERS. Aye by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Whitehouse.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Warner.

Chairman SANDERS. Aye by proxy.

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.
 Chairman SANDERS. Aye by proxy.

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 GRAHAM. Pass.
 The CLERK. Mr. Toomey.
 Senator GRAHAM. No by proxy.

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 GRAHAM. No by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Romney.
 Senator GRAHAM. No by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Kennedy.
 Senator GRAHAM. Aye by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Cramer.
 Senator GRAHAM. Aye by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Chairman.
 Chairman SANDERS. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Chairman, the yeas are 15 and the nays are six.
 Chairman SANDERS. Thank you.

The second question before the Committee is the nomination of Nani Coloretto to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. A quorum is present.

I support the nominee and urge a yes vote.

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

The Clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Mrs. Murray.

Senator MURRAY. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Wyden.

Senator WYDEN. Aye.

The CLERK. Ms. Stabenow.

Chairman SANDERS. Aye by proxy.

The CLERK. Mr. Whitehouse.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Warner.

Chairman SANDERS. Aye by proxy.

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.
 Chairman SANDERS. Aye by proxy.
 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 GRAHAM. Pass.
 The CLERK. Mr. Toomey.
 Senator GRAHAM. No by proxy.
 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 GRAHAM. No by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Romney.
 Senator GRAHAM. No by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Kennedy.
 Senator GRAHAM. Aye by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Cramer.
 Senator GRAHAM. Aye by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Chairman.
 Chairman SANDERS. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Chairman, the total yeas are 15 and the total nays are six.
 Chairman SANDERS. Thank you all very much for being here.
 All Senator's statements for the record are due by 12:00 noon tomorrow, with signed hardcopies delivered to the Committee Clerk in Dirksen 624. Emailed copies will also be accepted.
 With no further business before the Committee, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you all very much.
 [Whereupon, at 11:54 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]