

BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 6:33 p.m., in The President's Room, S-216, U.S. Capitol, Hon. Jerry Moran, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Moran, Boozman, Cassidy, Tillis, Sullivan, Blackburn, Cramer, Tuberville, Banks, Sheehy, Blumenthal, Hirono, Hassan, and Gallego.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY MORAN, CHAIRMAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS

Chairman MORAN. Now that we have a quorum, this business meeting will come to order.

As specified in the notice provided to Committee members, we are here to consider the nomination of John Bartrum to be the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I will be supporting this nomination and vote that way.

I now yield to the Ranking Member, Senator Blumenthal.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, RANKING MEMBER, U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be opposing this nomination. I am not going to belabor the point, but he has been a senior advisor since the beginning of Secretary Collins' tenure at the VA. He participated in the cancellation of all the contracts that have been cut and decimated. He testified in our Committee about various issues such as the cancellation of contracts, but refused to answer requests for information, and has failed to provide any more information since then. He has made some dubious decisions about VA's fiscal year 2026 budget, and he has participated in the firings of thousands of health care staff.

There are other issues that I could raise, but for those reasons and others, I will oppose this nomination.

Chairman MORAN. Do other members seek recognition? If not, the clerk will call the roll.

The CLERK. Mr. Boozman?

Senator BOOZMAN. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Cassidy?

Senator CASSIDY. Aye.

The CLERK. Mr. Tillis?
 Senator TILLIS. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Sullivan?
 Senator SULLIVAN. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mrs. Blackburn?
 Senator BLACKBURN. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Cramer?
 Senator CRAMER. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Tuberville?
 Senator TUBERVILLE. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Banks?
 Senator BANKS. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Sheehy?
 Senator SHEEHY. Aye.
 The CLERK. Mr. Blumenthal?
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No.
 The CLERK. Mrs. Murray?
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No, by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Sanders?
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No, by proxy.
 The CLERK. Ms. Hirono?
 Senator HIRONO. No.
 The CLERK. Ms. Hassan?
 Senator HASSAN. No.
 The CLERK. Mr. King?
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No, by proxy.
 The CLERK. Ms. Duckworth?
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No, by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Gallego?
 Senator GALLEGO. No.
 The CLERK. Ms. Slotkin?
 Senator BLUMENTHAL. No, by proxy.
 The CLERK. Mr. Chairman?
 Chairman MORAN. Aye.
 The CLERK. On this vote, the yeas are 10 and the nays are 9.
 Chairman MORAN. The motion is favorably reported. It is agreed
 to. If no other Committee member seeks recognition, the meeting
 is adjourned.
 [Whereupon, at 6:36 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]