

**Opening Statement of William B. Schultz**  
**Nominee to be General Counsel,**  
**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Senate Committee on Finance**  
**December 20, 2012**

Mr. Chairman, Senator Hatch, and Members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before this Committee as the President's nominee to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Department of Health and Human Services has more than 65,000 employees whose mission is to assure that the American people have access to high quality and affordable healthcare, to support children and families, to assure the safety of food and medical products, and to support research that will improve health and save lives. The Office of General Counsel advises the Department on the legal authorities that Congress has given the agency and on the legal constraints Congress has imposed. It also works with components of HHS and the Department of Justice to ferret out fraud against the government, to assure compliance with the law, and to defend the government against legal challenges to its programs.

I believe my experience has prepared me for this position, and has equipped me with the relevant skills, as well as an understanding of the appropriate role of the General Counsel. I have worked in all three branches of government and in the private sector on litigation and regulatory matters. Since March 2011, I have served as the Principal Deputy General Counsel and Acting General Counsel of the Department. Prior to March 2011, I was a partner at the law firm Zuckerman Spaeder. Prior to that, I spent 11 years in government, including five years as counsel to the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, four years as Deputy Commissioner for Policy at the Food and Drug Administration, and two years as Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice, in charge of civil appellate litigation. I started my career as a law clerk to a federal district court judge here in Washington, D.C., and then worked for 14 years at Public Citizen Litigation Group, a public interest law firm.

I am fortunate that the HHS Office of General Counsel is populated by enormously talented and committed attorneys. I am also grateful to have the opportunity to work with Secretary Sebelius, Deputy Secretary Bill Corr and the other extraordinary officials at the Department. Throughout my career I have found public service and in particular government service to be both extremely challenging and rewarding, and I feel very fortunate to be nominated to this position. The mission of HHS could not be more important. If I am confirmed, I look forward to working with the members of the Committee, and will do my very best to ensure that the laws Congress has enacted are faithfully implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today and I would be happy to respond to any questions.