

# United States Senate

January 11, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray,

I write to request that the business meeting scheduled to occur on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 be open to the public, or that you work with me to facilitate a live stream of the proceedings to the public.

This business meeting will consider nominations of great significance to the everyday life of Americans. Included on the docket are nominees that will be tasked with making vital health and life decisions at the Food and Drug Administration as the country wages an unprecedented opioid crisis; determining major employment policy at Wage and Hour that will regulate the fate of many small business entrepreneurs; establishing leadership for the Office of Safety and Health Administration at a time it is working to implement unconstitutional vaccine mandates; and numerous other nominations of consequence. Of the eight nominations being considered by the HELP Committee tomorrow, eight nominations were returned to the White House at the end of 2021. Despite this slate of nominees being rejected by the Senate in 2021, all such nominations have been returned by President Biden.

HELP Committee rules make clear that committee business should be open to the public with limited exceptions.<sup>1</sup> Nothing in the Senate Standing Rules would necessitate an exception to HELP Committee rules—a set of rules that prioritize maximum transparency for the American public concerning the Committee's operations.

As a result, I respectfully ask that the business meeting be made public, or that the Committee allow me to live stream the markup so that interested members of the public may be able to view the proceedings.

Sincerely,



Mike Braun  
Ranking Member  
HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workforce Safety

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<sup>1</sup> See HELP Committee, 117<sup>th</sup> Rules, Rule 3, "Meetings of the committee or a subcommittee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public except as otherwise specifically provided in subsections (b) and (d) of rule 26.5 of the Standing Rules of the Senate."