



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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Councilmember

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate

Via Fax: (202) 224-6510

CONCERNS OVER THE NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TOM PRICE, (R-Roswell, GA) AS SECRETARY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES.

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

I write to you on behalf of the City Council of the City of West Hollywood and the West Hollywood community to express our serious concerns about the nomination of Representative Tom Price, (R-Roswell, GA). Our City Council has been entrusted by our community members to uphold the City's core values and to preserve principles of equality, respect, and support for people.

Representative Price's nomination as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is alarming. As you know, Representative Price has been a strong opponent of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and has advocated for dismantling the progress that has been made to provide millions of people with health care. West Hollywood is home to many residents that have benefited by the ACA and our state's *Covered California*, and we are deeply troubled, not only that people in our community may lose health care, but that people across the nation may lose health care, as well.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), has stated that Congressman Price, an orthopedic surgeon, has an "abysmal" record when it comes to ensuring that all Americans have access to quality health care.





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In addition to the City of West Hollywood's deep concerns about Representative Price's stance on the ACA, we also have concerns about revelations that he faces accusations of insider trading.

The West Hollywood City Council respectfully calls on you and your colleagues to properly and carefully weigh-in on Representative Price's qualifications, legislative record, and background.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Lauren Meister,
MAYOR

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Hon. Kamala Harris, U.S. Senator (CA)
Hon. Adam Schiff, U.S. Representative, CA-28th District
Members of the California Congressional Delegation
Hon. Jerry Brown
Hon. Richard Bloom, AD-50
Hon. Ben Allen, SD-26
Honorable members of the West Hollywood City Council





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HHS is one of the most vitally important federal agencies. It oversees essential social programs that not only improve the quality of life for millions of people — often times, HHS programs are, quite literally, saving the lives of Americans. Programs such as child welfare, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and food and drug safety affect the well-being of millions of people across the country, including millions of Californians. That is why it is imperative to carefully examine the qualifications, ideology, and record of the prospective HHS Secretary.

The City of West Hollywood has adopted legislative priorities to:

- Oppose legislation that would reduce access to affordable medical care;
- Support legislation that funds preventative health care services;
- Support legislation that promotes and protects women’s reproductive health and personal choices; and
- Support legislation that increases funding of, and access to, community health, mental health, and substance-use treatment services.

Representative Price’s antipathy toward health care for all citizens has been demonstrated in his proposal to replace a ban on insurers who deny coverage for people with pre-existing conditions with a provision requiring continuous coverage for the previous 18 months. This proposal would open a loophole that ignores people who lose existing coverage when they are unemployed. It also creates a loophole for people who are forced to change insurance coverage due to rapidly escalating premium costs or being dropped by their insurer.

The City of West Hollywood supports the ACA, as it has provided health care coverage to millions of previously uninsured Americans, and West Hollywood would like Congress to set its sights on strengthening and improving the ACA, rather than dismantling it.

