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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

DAVID P. CLEARY, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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<http://help.senate.gov>

January 25, 2017

Andrew Puzder  
Trump-Pence Transition Team  
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Puzder:

I write to inquire when the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee might expect to see the required Committee paperwork in advance of your hearing, which is currently scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2017, and to reiterate my request that all of President Trump's Cabinet nominees provide three years of tax returns as part of the Senate vetting process.

During our meeting nearly three weeks ago, on January 5, 2017, you assured me your paperwork was already complete and that you expected it to arrive by the end of that week. Unfortunately, the HELP Committee is still waiting. While press has reported that you find the paperwork involved in the nomination process to be burdensome, I hope you will not allow that to interfere with our efforts to ensure a thorough, open, and complete vetting process consistent with what the American people deserve.

President Trump announced his intent to nominate you to be the Secretary of Labor on December 8, almost seven weeks ago. With the exception of those announced in the past two weeks, every other cabinet nominee has submitted the required Committee paperwork. In addition, I have not received word from the White House regarding the completion of your FBI background investigation. I am concerned that the absence of your paperwork at this late stage may impede the Committee's ability to perform a thorough review.

Additionally, last month I called on all of President-elect Trump's Cabinet nominees to provide three years of tax returns as part of the Senate vetting process. Consistent with this request, I urge you to voluntarily provide three years of tax returns to the Committee in order to ensure that the Committee has an opportunity to fully understand the challenges your investments and other financial transactions may present to your coming nomination as Secretary of Labor.

Senate Committees that already require tax returns for nominees in their jurisdiction have found they offer an important tool and provide additional information necessary to thoroughly evaluate whether there may be conflicts of interest between a nominee's finances and the position to which they have been nominated. Moreover, the provision of tax returns has, in the past, been offered as an option to nominees coming before the HELP Committee. In fact, at least three

previous cabinet Secretaries have provided tax returns to the Committee as part of the confirmation process.

When the HELP Committee meets to organize for the 115th Congress, I will offer an amendment to the HELP Committee rules to require that all Cabinet-level nominees provide three years of returns. Such information would of course be handled in strictest confidence with procedures and safeguards already used by the Senate Finance and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss compliance with this request please contact Beth Stein, HELP Committee General Counsel, at 202-224-3254.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
United States Senator