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Legislative update: Senate Finance approves nominations of Mnuchin for Treasury, Price for HHS

The Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee today voted to suspend the committee's quorum rules and report favorably the nominations of Steven Mnuchin to be Secretary of the Treasury and Rep. Tom Price to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The 14-0 vote in favor of each nomination took place despite a decision by all of the Democratic members of the Finance Committee to boycott the committee meeting after requesting that the vote be postponed until the two nominees answered more vetting questions posed by Democratic committee members.

Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) in a statement indicated his belief that adequate opportunities to vet the nominees had been given and that it was time that the nominees were allowed to move forward in the confirmation process.

It is unclear when the full Senate will hold votes on the nominations. A majority of 51 Senators is required to confirm each nomination.

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