

Senator Tuberville, thank you for your kind words. Thank you, also, for the service you have rendered to our nation and to our home state of Alabama.

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, members of the Committee, good morning. It is truly a pleasure to be here and to have been nominated to be the next Assistant Secretary for Health by President Trump. I want to thank President Trump and Secretary Kennedy for the trust they have put in me to help with the mission of Making America Healthy Again.

With me is my wife, Helena Christine. Helena is my rock, my best friend, and a compass that orients me toward what is good and just.

Watching from home is my daughter, Maria Christine Mims. Maria is a mother of two beautiful little girls and by training is a Special Education teacher.

My sister, also a Special Education teacher is here to support me, and my older brother, a judge, is supporting me from his home state of Florida.

From the earliest times I can recall as a child, I wanted to be a physician. I was blessed to be able to attend one of the best medical schools in the world, Emory University in Atlanta; I still possess the fire

in my heart that ignited when I took the Hippocratic Oath 34 years ago... a burning commitment to love my patients, to treat them with compassion, and to act with integrity.

I trained as a Urologic Surgeon at the University of Alabama, completing my Residency, attaining and maintaining Board Certification, and have practiced in Alabama for over 30 years, specializing in Men's Health. The vast majority of my patients are Prostate Cancer survivors. My Team and I have treated patients from not just the United States, but also from Europe, Asia, Canada, and South America. My practice in Prosthetic Urology and Men's Health is

recognized both within the United States and internationally as a true Center of Excellence.

In no small part because of the support of my partners, the assistance of my amazingly committed surgical Team, and those surgeons who have mentored me, I have earned a reputation as a thought leader, a surgical innovator, and a medical educator.

I tell you about my practice because I want you to understand that if confirmed, the perspective I will bring to the Department of Health and Human Services is a perspective shaped by a career spent in day-to-day

patient care. Treatment decisions and hard conversations with patients and their loved ones happen in the clinic, or in the Emergency Room, or at the bedside. They happen in community hospitals and medical offices.

That is where I practice and that is what I know.

Every organization, if it is to be successful, must have someone in a leadership position who lives and works on “Mainstreet”.

Every workday, for the past 34 years I have listened to and interacted with patients. Every day I have heard doctors and nurses discuss the challenges faced in the fight to provide care for their patients. Every day these same healthcare providers, and patients, have voiced concerns regarding limitations placed by insurance providers, hospital

administrators, rising drug costs, and a shrinking number of physicians and nurses.

Understanding the link I provide to actual, patient-centered healthcare, I sit before you today to state that there is a crisis. Our nation's healthcare institutions and policies are broken, and this has real world effects at every stop in the system.

Healthcare providers: nurses, physicians, and allied health professionals, are overworked, discouraged, and retiring from active patient care in numbers that will be more than difficult to replace. Nurses are the backbone of patient centered care in the United States, yet over 50%

report “burnout” and emotional exhaustion. Nurse retirement rates are accelerating. An astounding 20% plan retirement in just the next 5 years (American Nurses Association). Similarly, job dissatisfaction among physicians is at an all-time high. We expect to be overworked, but many of us are fed up with administrative and documentation burdens and a lack of control over patient care. Physician retirement, too, is accelerating. Senators, if we do not take this workforce crisis seriously and take action to address it, the shortage of doctors and nurses will number not in the thousands, but in the hundreds of thousands.

But perhaps most importantly, the average American has come to distrust our healthcare system. This distrust causes men and women to miss important cancer screenings and break appointments for follow-up of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Missed early detection of cancers and worsening of manageable conditions directly and unquestionably has led to early death, lost workforce production, and accelerated health care costs for everyone.

But in the midst of the crisis, I see hope. My boots-on-ground practice of medicine and surgery allows me to take the pulse of Americans, both literally and figuratively. What I see, what I hear, and what is growing, is a feeling among so many that President Trump and his Administration

are truly focused on understanding and curing chronic disease. Across the political, economic, and racial spectrum, there is enthusiasm for **Secretary Kennedy's** commitment to improving the quality of our food, ridding our diet of additives and chemicals that other countries ban, and promoting radical transparency.

And, tellingly, since my nomination was announced hundreds (and I am speaking literally) hundreds of nurses, physicians, patients, and citizens I have not previously met, have expressed profound appreciation that the President wants a Mainstreet doctor in a leadership position.

Interviewing with **Secretary Kennedy**, I told him that I will not come to Washington for a job or to start a new career. I have had my career. But,

I said, I WILL come to execute a mission. That mission, as a part of the Health and Human Services team, will be to restore trust and confidence in healthcare in America, to address the looming crisis of too few healthcare providers, to work with you to eliminate our healthcare deserts, and to carry out any other part of that mission to make America healthier while always pursuing an America-first agenda.

I look forward to your questions, and God bless.