

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF KATHERINE BAICKER
NOMINEE FOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
October 25, 2005

Chairman Shelby, Senator Sarbanes, and members of the committee, it is a great honor to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

For almost sixty years, members of the Council of Economic Advisers have had the opportunity and responsibility of providing the President with objective advice on issues ranging from education to environmental resources, from health care to housing, from trade to transportation, from welfare to worker training. Members of the CEA strive to bring the best scientific thinking from the broader economics community to bear on these often difficult questions.

My previous experience includes work in both the academic and policy arena. Since receiving my PhD, I have served on the faculty in both the economics department at Dartmouth and at the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences and the department of community and family medicine at Dartmouth Medical School. I have recently joined the department of public policy in the School of Public Affairs at the University of California at Los Angeles. I am a research associate in the public economics program at the National Bureau of Economic Research. My research focuses on health economics, welfare, and public finance, with a particular emphasis on the financing of health insurance, spending on public programs, and fiscal federalism. I also had the privilege several years ago of serving as a senior economist at the Council of Economic Advisers, where I experienced first-hand the Council's vital role in providing sound economic advice to inform the policy-making process. I hope that my experiences will allow me to continue this strong tradition.

In the coming years, our strong and growing economy will also be faced with many challenges, including mounting pressures on both public and private health care spending and the education and training of workers with the skills and flexibility required in the modern labor market. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I look forward to working with you all on these very important issues.

Thank you again for considering my nomination and for the privilege of appearing before the committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.