

Senate Plans Confirmation Hearing for Surgeon General Nominee

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A Senate confirmation hearing is being planned next week for Casey Means, President Donald Trump's nominee for surgeon general who has faced criticism over her experience and views, according to people familiar with the matter.

The hearing is tentatively scheduled for Thursday but isn't yet finalized and could change, the people said. Means plans to appear virtually due to her pregnancy, the people said. A spokesperson for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions declined to comment on the timing but said the committee will work with Means and the administration to move her nomination through the process and schedule a hearing.

Means, a Stanford University-trained physician and wellness influencer who focuses on functional medicine — a type of alternative medicine that focuses on diet as the root cause of chronic illness — was nominated for the role five months ago but a hearing had not been scheduled for her confirmation. She declined to comment.

Means's nomination came after the White House's first pick, former Fox News contributor Janette Nesheiwat, was pulled following concerns that Nesheiwat misrepresented her educational background.

The nomination of Means has become a political lightning rod.

Some allies of Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. are worried that she isn't sufficiently critical of vaccine safety. Kennedy's former presidential campaign running mate Nicole Shanahan and right-wing provocateur Laura Loomer have also opposed her nomination. Former Trump administration Surgeon General Jerome Adams has voiced concern that Means doesn't hold an active medical license.

Kennedy has defended Means on social media. Other high-profile Kennedy allies focused on food issues have given Means full-throated endorsements.

If she is confirmed, Means said she would divest her equity in health startups. She will resign from her position as an adviser to Levels Health Inc., a technology startup she co-founded that helps users track glucose monitoring data. She said she will divest from Levels as well as the health company her brother Calley Means co-founded, Truemed, and the testing company Function Health Inc.

Calley Means served as a special government employee focused on health issues at the White House.

