



Chairman Rick Scott’s Opening Statement “Improving Wellness Among Seniors: Setting a Standard for the American Dream”

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging will now come to order.

So, this is my first committee meeting as Chair. How about you [Ranking Member Gillibrand]? I just got lucky; so I want to thank everyone for being here. It is a pleasure to serve as the Chairman for the Senate Special Committee on Aging for the 119th Congress.

I look forward to working with Ranking Member Gillibrand and all our colleagues in this Committee to highlight the issues facing older Americans and how the federal government can be more accountable to the American people.

This is something I have been focused on since my time as Governor of Florida and I am excited to have the opportunity to continue this work as Chairman of the Special Committee on Aging.

My goal for this Committee is to make sure every American senior is able to answer “YES” to this question, “Are you well?” because they have secured these four things:

- *Their physical health;*
- *Financial security;*
- *A safe community to live in; and*
- *Family and community support.*

If you have all four of these things, your senior years can be the best time of your life.

Now, I’d like to welcome all the members of the Committee:

Ranking Member Gillibrand of New York.

Also, we’ve got new members:

- *Senator Dave McCormick from Pennsylvania;*

- *Coach Tommy Tuberville;*
- *Fellow Governor Jim Justice; we've got*
- *Andy Kim from New Jersey; and we've got some others that I'm sure will be here a little bit later*

Aging is not a partisan issue. Whether or not we'd like to admit it or not, we are all aging, and it impacts every single one of us regardless of political party. I think we're all trying not to age.

I believe we have a big opportunity in this Committee to work in a bipartisan manner to support and improve the lives of America's current senior citizens and create change that will improve both the lifespan and healthspan of future generations.

It's pretty exciting when you look at the conversation about food safety, medicine safety, and all these things. It's an exciting time.

I think about how my work here will impact my grandkids. I think we all think about our kids and grandkids. It drives what we do.

I want them to have every opportunity to live the American Dream and have long and healthy lives, mostly around me.

My staff and I are excited to work together with all the members here to find common ground and ways we can advance our shared goals.

I'd like to recognize Ranking Member Gillibrand now for her opening remarks.

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