

Research Report

**RICHARD BURR RAKED IN MONEY FROM
PHARMA/HEALTHCARE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES
AS HE WAS POISED TO BECOME
SENATE HELP CHAIRMAN**

ACCOUNTABLE 

SUMMARY: Between the 2020 general election and the 2021 Senate runoff elections in Georgia, Senator Richard Burr was poised to become Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee as well as retain membership on the Senate Finance Committee. During this same time period, Burr raked in campaign contributions from the pharmaceutical and financial services industries that these committees have jurisdiction over.

From October to December 2020, Burr received almost \$25,000 from the pharmaceutical/health care and financial services industries, including \$16,500 from PACs—\$15,000 of which came in after the 2020 election—and \$8,400 from lobbyists.

By contrast, Sen. Rand Paul, who was next in line to be chairman of Senate HELP committee, received only \$1,500 from health care industry PACs and no money from financial services industry PACs.

Additionally, from October to December 2020, Burr received \$115,800 from PACs after receiving just \$14,000 from PACs during the prior three quarters of 2020. And during the most recent comparable period--October to December 2018--Burr received only \$15,000 from PACs.

After Democrats won both Georgia Senate runoff races, Burr became Ranking Member of the Senate HELP committee, whereupon he immediately prioritized the health care industry's interests. In early February 2021:

- Burr said his main priority for the HELP committee would be health care and called for prioritizing private sector innovation related to COVID-19.
- Burr introduced amendments that favored the biomedical industry during budget reconciliation Votearama on the COVID-19 relief bill, including two that prioritized facilitating private sector innovation in response to COVID-19 with “activities to accelerate research and development by partnering with private entities” and “public-private partnerships and reduced regulation to biomedical research.”

This is consistent with Burr's prior pay-to-play and self-dealing with these industries.

- Burr came under FBI investigation for dumping up to \$1.7 million in stock in February 2020, less than a week after reassuring the public about coronavirus preparedness and a week before the market crashed.
- Nor is this behavior new; ProPublica noted that Burr “regularly flips health care stocks even as he pushes for legislation to help the industry.”
 - Burr traded up to \$1.1 million worth of stock in medical manufacturers between 2013 and 2020, and over the course of Burr's 15 years in the Senate, he has been “one of the health care industry's staunchest friends” by pushing legislation to benefit them—including overseeing “the implementation of major legislation to pump taxpayer money into private sector initiatives to address public health threats.”

After 2020 General Election And Prior To January 2021 Senate Runoff Elections In Georgia, Sen. Burr Was Poised To Become Chairman Of Senate HELP Committee, And To Be Member Of Senate Finance Committee

November 2020: Burr Was Poised To Claim Senate HELP Committee Chairmanship Despite FBI Probe Into Finances. “RICHARD BURR can claim the Senate HELP Committee chairmanship, if he wants it. The North Carolina Republican is interested in the job, two people familiar told Marianne and Burgess, and would have a clear path to replacing retiring Sen. Lamar Alexander. An FBI probe of his stock trades at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak is not expected to affect his ability to seize the gavel. And it would give Burr — a major recipient of contributions from the tobacco and health care industries — control of the Senate panel with broad jurisdiction over health issues.” [Politico, [11/6/20](#)]

€ **Burr Was Reportedly Interested In Taking Over Chairmanship Of Senate HELP Committee.**

“RICHARD BURR can claim the Senate HELP Committee chairmanship, if he wants it. The North Carolina Republican is interested in the job, two people familiar told Marianne and Burgess, and would have a clear path to replacing retiring Sen. Lamar Alexander. An FBI probe of his stock trades at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak is not expected to affect his ability to seize the gavel. And it would give Burr — a major recipient of contributions from the tobacco and health care industries — control of the Senate panel with broad jurisdiction over health issues.” [Politico, [11/6/20](#)]

- **Burr Was Member Of The Senate Finance Committee.** [Burr.Senate.gov, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]

Oct.-Dec. 2020: Burr Received Almost \$25,000 From Pharmaceutical/Healthcare And Financial Services Industries

Oct.-Dec. 2020: Burr Received \$16,500 From Pharma/Healthcare And Financial Sector PACs, \$15,000 Of Which Came In After The November 2020 Election.

Burr Received \$11,000 From Pharma And Health Insurance PACs According To 2020 Year End FEC Filing [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]

- **After The November 2020 Election, Burr Received \$10,000 From Pharma And Health Insurance PACs According To 2020 Year End FEC Filing.** [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]
 - **On December 31, 2020, The Richard Burr Committee Received \$5000 From HCA Good Government Fund.** [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]
 - **On December 31, 2020, The Richard Burr Committee Received \$5000 From The Humana Inc PAC.** [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]

Burr Received \$5,500 From Financial Sector PACs According To 2020 Year End FEC Filing [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]

- **After The November 2020 Election, Burr Received \$5,000 From Financial Sector PACs According To 2020 Year End FEC Filing.** On December 31, 2020, The Richard Burr Committee

Received \$5000 From The Pinnacle WestPAC [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]

Oct-Dec. 2020: Burr Received \$8,400 From Pharma/Healthcare Lobbyists According To 2020 Year End FEC Filings

Burr Received \$4,700 In Total Contributions From Aleix Jarvis, Kirsten Chadwick, And Billy Piper Of Fierce Government Relations. [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]

- ✘ **2020: Chadwick Lobbied For Multiple Pharma And Healthcare Organizations, Including Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Association For Accessible Medicines, Corporate Health Care Coalition, Kindred Healthcare, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, UnitedHealth Group, And Verax Biomedical.** [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: Fierce Government Relations, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]
- ✘ **2020: Piper Lobbied For Multiple Pharma And Healthcare Organizations, Including Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Association For Accessible Medicines, Corporate Health Care Coalition, Kindred Healthcare, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, UnitedHealth Group, And Verax Biomedical.** [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: Fierce Government Relations, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]
- ✘ **2020: Jarvis Lobbied For Multiple Pharma And Healthcare Organizations, Including Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Association For Accessible Medicines, Corporate Health Care Coalition, Kindred Healthcare, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, UnitedHealth Group, And Verax Biomedical.** [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: Fierce Government Relations, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]

2020: John Herzog Contributed \$2,700 To Richard Burr Committee According To 2020 Year End FEC Filings. [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: John Herzog, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]

- ✘ **2020: Herzog Lobbyist For Jeffrey J Kimbell and Associate, Lobbied On Behalf Of Numerous Pharmaceutical And Health Care Organizations Including AbbVie, Acadia Healthcare, Astellas Pharma, Brookdale Senior Living, And Roche.** [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: John Herzog, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]

2020: Jerr Rosenbaum Contributed \$1,000 To Richard Burr Committee According To 2020 Year End FEC Filings. [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: Jerr Rosenbaum, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]

- ✘ **2020: Rosenbaum Lobbied On Behalf Of A Number Of Pharmaceutical And Health Care Organizations Including Peachtree Health Group, Prescient Medicine, UnitedHealth Group, And Fresenius Medical Care.** [Opensecrets, Lobbying Profile: Jerr Rosenbaum, Accessed [2/8/21](#)]

Sen. Rand Paul, Who Was Next In Line To Be Chairman Of Senate HELP Committee, Received Only \$1,500 From Health Care Industry PACs And No Money From Financial Services Industry PACs

Behind Burr, Rand Paul Was Next Republican In Line To Claim Senate HELP Committee Chairmanship. “RICHARD BURR can claim the Senate HELP Committee chairmanship, if he wants it. [...] But if not, the job would fall to RAND PAUL. A staunch libertarian, Paul gained notoriety in recent months for his repeated clashes with top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci over the seriousness of the pandemic and the virus’ threat to children.” [Politico, [11/6/20](#)]

- **In Q4 2020, Paul Only Received \$1,500 From Health Care Industry PACs, Specifically 1,500 From Cigna PAC.** [FEC – Rand Paul For US Senate – Year End 2020 Filing, [2/8/21](#)]
- **In Q4 2020, Paul Received No Contributions From Financial Services Industry PACs.** [FEC – Rand Paul For US Senate – Year End 2020 Filing, [2/8/21](#)]

Oct.-Dec. 2020: Burr Received \$115,800 From PACs, Compared To Oct.-Dec. 2018, During Which He Received Just \$15,000 From PACs, And The Rest Of 2020, During Which He Received Only \$14,000 From PACs.

Oct.-Dec. 2020: Burr Received \$115,800 From PACs

Oct.-Dec. 2020: Burr Received \$115,800 From PACs According To 2020 Year End FEC Filing [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [1/31/21](#)]

Oct.-Dec. 2018: Burr Received Just \$15,000 From PACs

During The Fourth Quarter Of 2018—The Most Recent Additional Off-Cycle Period For Burr—He Received Just \$15,000 In Contributions From PACs. Richard Burr Committee's Year-End 2018 Report Disclosed The Committee Received \$15,000 In Contributions From PACs For That Period. [Federal Election Commission, [01/27/19](#)]

- **Richard Burr Was Last Up For Reelection In 2016.** “Richard Mauze Burr (b. November 30, 1955, in Charlottesville, Virginia) is a Republican member of the United States Senate from North Carolina. Burr was first elected to the Senate in 2004. He won re-election in 2016 with 51.1 percent of the vote.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [02/12/21](#)]

Jan.-Sept. 2020: Burr Received Just \$14,000 From PACs

Jan-Mar. 2020: Burr Received \$4,000 From PACs According To April 2020 Quarterly FEC Filing [FEC – Richard Burr Committee, [04/14/20](#)]

April.-Jun. 2020: Burr Received \$0 From PACs According To July 2020 Quarterly FEC Filing [FEC – Richard Burr Committee – Year End 2020 Filing, [07/14/20](#)]

Jul.-Sept. 2020: Burr Received \$10,000 From PACs According To October 2020 Quarterly FEC Filing [FEC – Richard Burr Committee, [10/15/20](#)]

Jan. 2021: After Democrats Won Georgia Races And Took Control Of Senate, Burr Became Ranking Member On Senate HELP Committee And Immediately Prioritized Health Care Industry's Interests

Sen Burr Was Incoming Ranking Member On Senate Health, Education, Labor, And Pensions (HELP) Committee. “For your planning purposes, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and U.S. Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), incoming Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, have scheduled hearings to consider the nominations of Dr. Miguel Cardona to serve as U.S.

Secretary of Education and Mayor Marty Walsh to serve as U.S. Secretary of Labor.” [Help.Senate.gov, [1/29/21](#)]

Feb. 2021: Burr Said His Main Priority For HELP Committee Would Be Health Care And Called For Prioritizing Private Sector Innovation Related To COVID-19

Feb. 2021: Sen Burr Said His Main Priority For The HELP Committee Would Be Health Care. “My main priority for this committee is health care” [Sen Richard Burr -- HELP Committee Hearing, [2/3/21](#)]

Feb. 2021: Burr Called For “Continu[ing] To Prioritize Enabling And Incentivizing Private Sector Innovation As Related To The Coronavirus.” “We need to continue to prioritize enabling and incentivizing private sector innovation. We need to continue to prioritize enabling and incentivizing private sector innovation. We’ve seen what the private sector can do – a vaccine developed and authorized less than a year after a novel virus was discovered should become the norm.” [Sen Richard Burr -- HELP Committee Hearing, [2/3/21](#)]

Feb. 2021: Burr Introduced Amendments To Biden COVID-19 Bill That Favored Biomedical Industry

During February 2021 COVID Relief Votarama, Burr Introduced SA 208 And SA 209, Amendments Supporting “Biomedical Innovation In Response To COVID” With “Activities To Accelerate Research And Development By Partnering With Private Entities” And “Public-Private Partnerships And Reduced Regulation To Biomedical Research.” [Congressional Record – Senate, [2/3/21](#)]

Burr Has Been Under Federal Investigation For His Stock Trading Practices, Invested In Medical Manufacturing Industry Overseen By Senate HELP Committee, And Pushed Legislation Long Before Pandemic That Was Favorable To Health Care Industry

Burr Came Under FBI Investigation For Dumping Up To \$1.7 Million Worth Of Stock Shortly After Reassuring Public About COVID-19 And Right Before Market Crashed

HEADLINE: “FBI Serves Sen. Burr Warrant, Takes Cell Phone In Stock Sale Investigation, Report Says.” [Charlotte Observer, [5/13/20](#)]

Burr Came Under FBI Investigation For Stock Trading After Dumping Stock Holdings Right Before The Market Crashed Due TO COVID-19 Fears. “The Republican of North Carolina, who is under investigation for his stock trading, regularly flips health care stocks even as he pushes for legislation to help the industry. [...] Burr’s financial interests have come under scrutiny in recent weeks. ProPublica reported he unloaded a significant portion of his stock holdings soon before the market crashed because of coronavirus fears, prompting an FBI investigation and calls for his resignation.” [ProPublica, [4/27/20](#)]

HEADLINE: “Senator Dumped Up to \$1.7 Million Of Stock After Reassuring Public About Coronavirus Preparedness.” [ProPublica, [3/19/20](#)]

- **Feb. 7, 2020: Burr Co-authored Op-ed In Which He Assured Public That “The United States Today Is Better Prepared Than Ever Before To Face Emerging Public Health Threats, Like The**

Coronavirus. “Burr’s public comments had been considerably less dire. In a Feb. 7 op-ed that he co-authored with another senator, he assured the public that “the United States today is better prepared than ever before to face emerging public health threats, like the coronavirus.’ He wrote, ‘No matter the outbreak or threat, Congress and the federal government have been vigilant in identifying gaps in its readiness efforts and improving its response capabilities.” [ProPublica, [3/19/20](#)]

- **Feb. 13, 2020: Burr Sold Off Up To \$1.72 Million Of His Stock Holdings In 33 Separate Transactions.** Soon after he offered public assurances that the government was ready to battle the coronavirus, the powerful chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Richard Burr, sold off a significant percentage of his stocks, unloading between \$628,000 and \$1.72 million of his holdings on Feb. 13 in 33 separate transactions.” [ProPublica, [3/19/20](#)]
- **ProPublica: “A Week After Burr’s Sales, The Stock Market Began A Sharp Decline.”** “A week after Burr’s sales, the stock market began a sharp decline and has lost about 30% since.” [ProPublica, [3/19/20](#)]

Burr Has Long Track Record Prior To Pandemic Of “Regularly Flip[ping] Health Care Stocks Even As He Pushes For Legislation To Help The Industry”

ProPublica: Burr “Regularly Flips Health Care Stocks Even As He Pushes For Legislation To Help The Industry.” “The Republican of North Carolina, who is under investigation for his stock trading, regularly flips health care stocks even as he pushes for legislation to help the industry.” [ProPublica, [4/27/20](#)]

2013-2020: Burr Traded Up To \$1.1 Million Of Stock In Medical Manufacturers, An Industry Overseen By HELP Committee On Which He Serves As Ranking Member

Between 2013 And 2020, Burr And His Wife Bought And Sold Between \$639,500 And \$1.1 Million Of Stock In Medical Manufacturers. “Burr also trades in and out of the industry’s stocks. Since 2013, Burr and his wife bought and sold between \$639,500 and \$1.1 million of stock in companies that make medical devices, equipment, supplies and drugs, according to a ProPublica analysis of his financial disclosures.” [ProPublica, [4/27/20](#)]

Senate HELP Committee’s Jurisdiction Encompassed The Food And Drug Administration. “The HELP Committee jurisdiction encompasses most of the agencies, institutes, and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Administration on Aging, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The Committee also oversees public health and health insurance statutes to address emerging threats and changing patterns in the healthcare industry.” [Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Accessed [2/9/21](#)]

- **FDA Was Granted Authority To Regulate The Manufacturing And Marketing Of Medical Devices In 1976.** “Medical devices are regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) within the Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Center for Devices and Radiological Health is responsible for protecting and promoting the public health by ensuring the safety, effectiveness, and quality of medical devices, ensuring the safety of radiation-emitting products, fostering innovation, and providing the public with accurate, science-based information about the products we oversee, throughout the total product life cycle. The FDA was granted the authority to regulate the manufacturing and marketing of medical devices in 1976.” [National Library of Medicine, [11/6/14](#)]

Over Course Of Burr's 15 Years In Senate He Has Been "One Of The Health Care Industry's Staunchest Friends," Pushing Legislation Favorable To Them

Senator Burr Was "One Of The Health Care Industry's Staunchest Friends" Over His 15 Years In Senate. "In his 15 years in the Senate, Richard Burr, a North Carolina Republican, has been one of the health care industry's staunchest friends." [Propublica, [4/27/20](#)]

- **Burr Advocated To End The Tax On Medical Device Makers.** "Serving on the health care and finance committees, Burr advocated to end the tax on medical device makers, one of the industry's most-detested aspects of the 2010 Affordable Care Act. He pushed the Food and Drug Administration to speed up its approval process. As one of the most prominent Republican health care policy thinkers, he has sponsored or co-sponsored dozens of health-related bills, including a proposal to replace 'Obamacare.' He oversaw the implementation of major legislation to pump taxpayer money into private sector initiatives to address public health threats. 'The industry feels very positive about Sen. Burr,' the president of North Carolina's bioscience trade group said during Burr's last reelection campaign. 'He's done a stellar job.'" [Propublica, [4/27/20](#)]
- **Burr Pushed FDA To Speed Up Its Approval Process.** "Serving on the health care and finance committees, Burr advocated to end the tax on medical device makers, one of the industry's most-detested aspects of the 2010 Affordable Care Act. He pushed the Food and Drug Administration to speed up its approval process. As one of the most prominent Republican health care policy thinkers, he has sponsored or co-sponsored dozens of health-related bills, including a proposal to replace 'Obamacare.' He oversaw the implementation of major legislation to pump taxpayer money into private sector initiatives to address public health threats. 'The industry feels very positive about Sen. Burr,' the president of North Carolina's bioscience trade group said during Burr's last reelection campaign. 'He's done a stellar job.'" [Propublica, [4/27/20](#)]
- **Burr Oversaw Implementation Of Major Legislation To Use Taxpayer Funds For Private Sector Initiatives To Address Public Health Threats.** "Serving on the health care and finance committees, Burr advocated to end the tax on medical device makers, one of the industry's most-detested aspects of the 2010 Affordable Care Act. He pushed the Food and Drug Administration to speed up its approval process. As one of the most prominent Republican health care policy thinkers, he has sponsored or co-sponsored dozens of health-related bills, including a proposal to replace 'Obamacare.' He oversaw the implementation of major legislation to pump taxpayer money into private sector initiatives to address public health threats. 'The industry feels very positive about Sen. Burr,' the president of North Carolina's bioscience trade group said during Burr's last reelection campaign. 'He's done a stellar job.'" [Propublica, [4/27/20](#)]