

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

# **The Evolving Coverage Landscape for Small Businesses: Opportunities and Challenges**

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room G50

Friday, June 12, 2015

**SABRINA CORLETTE** is a senior research fellow and project director at the Center on Health Insurance Reforms (CHIR) at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute and an adjunct professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center. At CHIR she directs research on health insurance reform issues as they affect consumers and patients. Her areas of focus include state and federal regulation of private health insurance plans and markets and implementation of new insurance market rules under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). She provides expertise and strategic advice to individuals and organizations on federal and state health insurance laws and programs and provides technical support through the development of resource guides, white papers, issue briefs, blogs and fact sheets. She has published numerous papers relating to the regulation of private health insurance and the development of health insurance marketplaces under the ACA. Prior to joining the Georgetown faculty, Ms. Corlette was director of health policy programs at the National Partnership for Women & Families, where she provided policy expertise and strategic direction for the organization's advocacy on health care reform, with a particular focus on insurance market reform, benefit design, and the quality and affordability of health care. From 1997 to 2001, Ms. Corlette worked as a professional staff member of the U.S. Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, where she served as health legislative assistant to Senator Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. After leaving the Hill, Ms. Corlette served as an attorney at the law firm Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson LLP), where she advised clients on health care law and policy relating to HIPAA, Medicare and Medicaid, and the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Ms. Corlette is a member of the D.C. Bar and received her J.D. with high honors from the University of Texas at Austin and her undergraduate degree with honors from Harvard University.

**TERRY GARDINER** advises the Small Business Majority team on long-term strategic planning and policy development from our Seattle office, where he brings to bear his decades of business ownership and job creation experience. He played the lead role in advising Congress and the White House in the development of small business-friendly provisions in the Affordable Care Act, and is now particularly focused on its successful implementation, including the operation of the 50 state small business healthcare exchanges. He also plays a key role in policies that promote access to capital, entrepreneurship, a rational tax system, retirement security, and a vibrant clean energy economy. He oversees the organization's work in Washington State, working with business leaders, issue advocates and policymakers. Originally a commercial fisherman, Mr. Gardiner founded and spent 22 years as the CEO of Silver Lining Seafoods, later NorQuest Seafoods. He grew the company to over \$100 million in sales, with 1,000 employees and markets in 22 countries. After the sale of NorQuest in 2004, he turned to public policy work, focusing on healthcare reform. Mr. Gardiner is a former Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, in which he served for 10 years and authored a host of successful groundbreaking legislation. He is a member of the National Co-Op Advisory Board and has testified at congressional committee hearings.

**KATIE MAHONEY** rejoined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in June 2010. Ms. Mahoney has more than 13 years of health care experience in hospital and health plan operations, as well as health policy. She is responsible for developing, advocating, and publicizing the Chamber's policy on health and works with members of Congress, the administration, and regulatory agencies to promote the organization's health policy. Ms. Mahoney also crafts regulatory responses for the Chamber and its member companies and addresses material areas as part of a comprehensive health policy. She joined the Chamber from the law firm of Greenberg Traurig where she served as assistant director of health and FDA business. While there,

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she analyzed legislative and regulatory health care proposals and advised insurers, health care providers, and employers on the respective business impact. Previously, Ms. Mahoney worked at the U.S. Chamber as director of health care policy from 2004 to 2007. She focused on access to health coverage for small businesses and the uninsured, health plan mandates, ERISA preemption and regulatory requirements, COBRA, Medicare payment systems, retiree health coverage, medical liability reform, and health care quality improvement initiatives. Ms. Mahoney has consulted on a variety of projects for state agencies and hospitals to maximize reimbursement and improve coverage among underserved populations, using public financing strategies. Her operational experience includes negotiating, implementing, and monitoring all managed care agreements with hospitals and health systems, large medical groups, and ancillaries in Southwest Central Louisiana on behalf of the largest single health carrier in the United States. She completed a postgraduate fellowship with the then-fully integrated Ochsner Health System, working at the executive level with chief executive officers at the Ochsner Health Plan, Ochsner Clinic, and Ochsner Foundation Hospital. Originally from Massachusetts, Ms. Mahoney graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University with an undergraduate degree in English literature. She earned a law degree and a master's degree in health administration from Tulane University's Schools of Law and Public Health and Tropical Medicine, respectively.

**ALISSA FOX** is senior vice president of the Office of Policy and Representation for the BlueCross BlueShield Association (BCBSA), a national federation of 37 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. The Blue System is the nation's largest health insurer of more than 106 million – one-in-three of all Americans. It is the largest single processor of Medicare claims in the nation, and holds the world's largest privately underwritten health insurance contract – the nearly 5.3-million-member Federal Employee Program (FEP). In overseeing BCBSA lobbying and policy development activities, Ms. Fox represents BCBSA's Washington office and Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies with the administration, Congress, government agencies and other national associations. This includes development of legislative and regulatory policy positions and legislative strategy on behalf of the nation's independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies on a wide range of issues, including healthcare reform, government programs, healthcare financing, tax legislation and health information technology. Ms. Fox has more than 20 years of experience in healthcare policy, including 11 years at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she served as branch chief, assistant secretary for management and budget. In this role, she was responsible for analysis of Medicare and Medicaid budgets, as well as legislative and regulatory proposals. She also has extensive consulting experience and led her own firm, Fox Consulting, prior to joining The Blues.