SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

King v. Burwell: The Facts and Implications
Senate Hart Office Building, Room 902
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ROBERT J. BLENDON is professor of health policy and political analysis and senior associate dean of policy translation and leadership development at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and a faculty member of Harvard Kennedy School. He directs the Harvard Opinion Research Program, which focuses on the better understanding of public knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about health and other major domestic public policy issues, and was the 2008 recipient of the Warren J. Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research. Prior to his Harvard appointment, he was senior vice-president at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In addition, he has served as a senior consultant for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Governors Association, and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

MICHAEL F. CANNON is the Cato Institute’s director of health policy studies. He has appeared on ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN, CNBC, C-SPAN, Fox News Channel, and NPR. His articles have been featured in numerous news publications. Previously, he served as a domestic policy analyst for the U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee, where he advised the Senate leadership on health, education, labor, welfare, and the Second Amendment. He holds a B.A. in American government from the University of Virginia, and an M.A. in economics and a J.M. in law and economics from George Mason University.

DAN CRIPPEN is executive director of the National Governors Association (NGA). He works with governors to identify and prioritize pressing issues facing states, and he oversees NGA’s day-to-day operations. He formerly served as director of the Congressional Budget Office, deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and assistant to the president for domestic policy under the Reagan administration and chief counsel and economic advisor for Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker. He is a member of the board of trustees for the Center for Health Care Strategies, a non-profit health policy center focusing on Medicaid; a member of the board of Father Martin’s Ashley, a drug and alcohol rehab center; and a member of the CBO Economic Advisors. He has also served as senior advisor to the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and as a member of the CEO Health Transformation Community, the NASA Aeronautics and Safety Advisory Panel and the Google Health Advisory Committee. He completed his undergraduate work at The University of South Dakota and earned a Ph.D. and a master's degree in public finance from The Ohio State University.

SIMON LAZARUS is senior counsel at the Constitutional Accountability Center. He is a trustee of the Center for Law and Social Policy and a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States. His articles have appeared in numerous news publications, as well as in law reviews. Mr. Lazarus writes frequently for the American Constitution Society’s ACS Blog and has published several ACS issue briefs, including “Mandatory Health Insurance: Is It Constitutional?”, which was released during the Senate health care reform debate in December 2009, and "The Health Reform Lawsuits: Unraveling a Century of Constitutional Law and the Fabric of Modern Government," published in February 2011. Prior to the Constitutional Accountability Center, Mr. Lazarus was public policy counsel to the National Senior Citizen Law Center. He served as associate director of President Jimmy Carter’s White House Domestic Policy Staff (1977-81), as a partner in Powell,
Goldstein, Frazer, and Murphy LLP (1981-2002), and as senior counsel to Sidley Austin LLP (2002-2006). He has testified frequently before congressional committees on issues related to the legality of the Affordable Care Act and its implementation. He graduated from Yale Law School, where he was Note & Comment Editor of the Yale Law Journal.