

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

“Health Reform Lessons Learned: Veterans of 1993-94 Offer Advice to Today’s Reformers”

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BRIAN BILES is a professor in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University. Prior to his appointment at GWU, he served for five years as the senior vice president of The Commonwealth Fund, where he directed the national grants program that focused on improving the financing and delivery of health services. Dr. Biles served as staff director of the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Ways and Means from 1996 to 2003, where he managed Medicare and health financing legislation. He has also served on the staffs of the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health chaired by Representative Henry Waxman, the Senate Labor Subcommittee on Health chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy, and Kansas Representative William Roy, M.D. He was deputy assistant secretary for health in HHS and deputy secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the State of Maryland. Dr. Biles received his medical degree from the University of Kansas and holds a master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

DAVID COLBY is vice president of research and evaluation at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, where he leads a team dedicated to improving the way Americans maintain health and obtain health care. Since joining the Foundation in 1998, Dr. Colby has served in a number of leadership positions, including interim vice president of research and evaluation, deputy director of research and evaluation, deputy director of the Health Care Group, interim team leader for the Quality Team, and team leader for the Coverage Team. Dr. Colby came to the Foundation after nine years of service with the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission, where he was deputy director. While working in government, Dr. Colby developed policy research contributing to landmark legislation that changed the formula for Medicare reimbursement. Previously, he worked on physician payment issues as a Robert Wood Johnson Faculty Fellow in health care finance, serving in the Congressional Budget Office. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois, M.A. from Ohio University, and B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University.

SUSAN DENTZER is an on-air correspondent with The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). She leads a unit providing in-depth coverage of health care, health policy and Social Security. The unit, begun in 1998, is funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and has been the recipient of several awards. Prior to joining The NewsHour in 1998, Ms. Dentzer was chief economics correspondent and economics columnist for U.S. News & World Report, where she worked from 1987 to 1997. Before joining U.S. News, she was at Newsweek, where she was a senior writer covering business news. Ms. Dentzer’s writing has earned her several fellowships, including a Nieman fellowship at Harvard University and a U.S.-Japan Leadership Program fellowship. Ms. Dentzer also serves on several boards including that of the International Rescue Committee, the Global Health Council and Dartmouth Medical School. A graduate of Dartmouth, Dentzer holds an honorary Master of Arts degree from Dartmouth and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio.

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CHRISTINE FERGUSON is a research associate professor of health policy at George Washington University, where she focuses on policy and health insurance issues. Earlier, Ms. Ferguson served for more than two decades in government, where she gained an unusual combination of federal and state experience in health care financing, public health, emergency preparedness and social services. From 2003-2005, she served as commissioner of the Department of Public Health in Massachusetts under Governor Mitt Romney, overseeing the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Finance and Policy. From 1995-2001, she ran the Rhode Island Department of Human Services under Governor Lincoln Almond's two-term administration. Before this, Ms. Ferguson served as counsel and deputy chief of staff to the late U.S. Senator John H. Chafee (R-RI), where she was the lead staff negotiator for Mainstream senators in the development of a bipartisan health reform proposal in the 1990s, a role noted by David Broder and Haynes Johnson in their book *The System*. During her Hill tenure, she led many changes in national health care and social service programs and policies. Ms. Ferguson holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from the Washington College of Law at American University.

CHRIS JENNINGS has more than two decades of health policy experience in the White House, Congress and the private sector. He is president of Jennings Policy Strategies (JPS), a health policy and advocacy consulting firm in Washington. Prior to this, Mr. Jennings served in the White House as the senior health care advisor to President Clinton. During his tenure, Mr. Jennings made significant contributions toward the enactment of major bipartisan health legislation, including the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Mental Health Parity Act, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act, the Work Incentives Improvement Act, and the tripling of funding for international AIDS programs for prevention, care, treatment and health infrastructure. In 1993 and 1994, he served as the senior advisor to the administrator of the then-Health Care Financing Administration (now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). In this capacity, he served concurrently as the congressional liaison for First Lady Hillary Clinton. Prior to joining the Clinton Administration, Mr. Jennings served as committee staff for three U.S. senators (Glenn, Melcher, and Pryor) over the course of almost 10 years on Capitol Hill.

DEAN ROSEN is a partner at the public affairs firm Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti, Inc. and head of the firm's health practice. He provides policy counsel and strategic advice to policy makers, business leaders, trade association executives and not-for-profit organizations on a broad range of health issues. Prior to joining Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti, Mr. Rosen held a series of high-level positions in both government and the private sector. He was the chief health care advisor to former Senate Majority Leader William H. Frist, M.D (R-TN), after serving as staff director for the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Health. Previously, he was senior vice president of policy and general counsel for the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA). Mr. Rosen came to HIAA from the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee where, as majority counsel, he played a significant role in developing the Medicare provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. He also served as health policy coordinator and majority counsel to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. There, he had principal responsibility for advising the committee chair on a wide range of health care and employee benefit issues. Before entering the public sector, Mr. Rosen practiced law at Dow, Lohnes and Albertson.