

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Affordability and Health Reform: If We Mandate, Will They (and Can They) Pay?

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Stuart Butler has played a major role in shaping the policy debate on a wide range of domestic policy issues from health care and Social Security to welfare reform and privatizing government services since joining Heritage in 1979. In 2002, he spent a semester at Harvard University as a Fellow at the Institute of Politics, and currently he is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Graduate School. Butler has degrees in physics and math and a doctorate in American economic history from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Butler's abiding passion is health care reform, where he has argued for a restructured system based on consumer choice and state-led innovation. He also has been published in leading academic journals, such as the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *Health Affairs*, and in leading newspapers. In addition to the dozens of research papers he has written for Heritage, Butler is the author of three books: *Enterprise Zones: Greenlining the Inner Cities* (1981), *Privatizing Federal Spending* (1985), and *Out of the Poverty Trap* (1987), and has edited several others. He has testified before Congress on a range of policy issues.

Sara R. Collins, Ph.D., is vice president for Affordable Health Insurance at the Commonwealth Fund. She is an economist whose responsibilities include directing the Fund's national health insurance program, research and policy analysis, and survey development. Since joining the Fund, Dr. Collins has directed or co-directed eight national surveys on health insurance and authored or co-authored over 30 reports, issue briefs and journal articles. She has provided invited testimony before several Congressional committees and subcommittees. Prior to joining the Fund, Dr. Collins was associate director/senior research associate at the New York Academy of Medicine, Division of Health and Science Policy. Previously, she was an associate editor at *U.S. News & World Report* where she wrote articles on economics and health care. She was also a senior health policy analyst in the New York City Office of the Public Advocate. She holds an A.B. in economics from Washington University and a Ph.D. in economics from George Washington University.

DeAnn Friedholm leads the health reform campaign team comprised of policy, advocacy and lobbyist staff from Consumers Union offices in New York, Washington, DC, California and Texas. She has three decades of experience in health and human services policy, advocacy and administration at the state, federal, local, and international levels of government, and in the non-profit sector. Ms. Friedholm spent her early career in Washington DC working on health and human services policy and legislation before returning to her native Texas to serve in several high level government positions, including Texas Medicaid Director. Governor Ann Richards appointed DeAnn as her representative on the Clinton Health Reform Task Force and as Commissioner of Health and Human Services. After leaving state government, she advocated for improved health services, including leading a fifty organization coalition supporting creation of the Texas CHIP program and establishing the Children's Defense Fund office in Texas. In 2003, Ms. Friedholm was recruited to serve as the Resident Advisor to the South African National Treasury, assisting with reform of the national/provincial social grant system. Upon her return three years later, she worked as a principal with Health Management Associates in Austin, Texas, before joining Consumers Union in June 2008.