

Speaker Biographies

Kathy Buto is vice president for health policy, government affairs, at Johnson & Johnson. She has responsibility for providing policy analysis and developing positions on a wide range of issues, including the Medicare drug benefit, government reimbursement, coverage of new technologies, and regulatory requirements. In addition to reviewing how federal, state, and international government policies affect Johnson & Johnson products and customers, she is responsible for helping to identify areas of opportunity for J&J to take leadership in shaping health care policy. Prior to joining J&J, Ms. Buto was a senior health adviser at the Congressional Budget Office, helping to develop the cost models for the Medicare drug benefit. Earlier, she spent more than 18 years in senior positions at the former Health Care Financing Administration, including deputy director of the Center for Health Plans and Providers, and associate administrator for policy. In these positions, she headed the policy, reimbursement, research, and coverage functions for the agency, as well as managing Medicare's fee-for-service and managed care operations. Ms. Buto received her bachelor of arts degree from Douglass College and her masters in public administration from Harvard.

Nancy LeaMond is executive vice president of social impact for AARP. She leads strategic planning, government relations and advocacy, education and programs for AARP's health care, financial security, livable communities and global aging agenda. She also directs Divided We Fail, the association's national initiative with the Business Roundtable, Service Employees International Union and National Federation of Independent Business to put health care and financial security at the top of the country's agenda. Ms. LeaMond began her tenure at AARP in 2001 as director of international affairs. During the Clinton Administration, Ms. LeaMond served as the chief of staff and assistant U.S. trade representative for congressional affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative. She worked extensively on health care and pension issues before entering the trade field, beginning her career in the Public Health Service, the Medicaid program and the Department of Commerce. She served in the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Education and later on Capitol Hill as chief of staff to Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker (D-Ohio). Ms. LeaMond holds a bachelors degree from Smith College, where she is a former trustee, and a master's degree in public policy and urban planning from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where she is a member of the Dean's Advisory Leadership Council.

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Karen Pollitz is a research professor at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute, where she directs research on health insurance reform issues as they affect consumers and patients. Her areas of focus include regulation of private health insurance plans and markets, managed care consumer protections, and access to affordable health insurance. She is also an adjunct professor in Georgetown's Graduate Public Policy School. Prior to joining the Georgetown faculty, Ms. Pollitz served as deputy assistant secretary for health legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1997. In this capacity, she was the HHS secretary's legislative liaison on all federal health care issues, including national health care reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and U.S. Public Health Service agencies and programs. Earlier, Ms. Pollitz had posts as a health policy advisor to several members of Congress and with the American Academy of Family Physicians, and taught at the Marymount University School of Business.

Nancy Taylor is co-chair of the Health and FDA Business section of the Greenberg Traurig law firm in Washington, DC. She advises major pharmaceutical companies, insurers, health care providers and employers on health care matters, including the FDA approval process and how health care reform could affect their business practices. In addition to health care, her other areas of expertise include long-term care financing, managed care and regulatory interpretation of health care matters. For 10 years, she served as health policy director for the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. She has also been the CEO of a medical device start-up company. She earned her B.S. degree at the University of Utah and her J.D. at The Catholic University of America.