

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

STUART BUTLER, Ph.D. is vice president for domestic and economic policy studies at the Heritage Foundation. Since joining Heritage in 1979, Dr. 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. His current focus is health care reform; he has argued for a restructured system based on consumer choice and state-led innovation. He has testified before Congress on a range of policy issues. **Dr. Butler has attained a reputation for reaching across the ideological spectrum in academic circles.** He is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Graduate School. In 2002, he spent a semester at Harvard University as a Fellow at the Institute of Politics. He has been published in leading academic journals, such as *Health Affairs* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In addition to the dozens of research papers he has written for Heritage, Dr. Butler has written 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 degrees in physics and math and a doctorate in American economic history from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

JOHN COLMERS is secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. This cabinet level agency has a budget of \$8 billion and nearly 7,000 employees. From November 2000 through January 2007, Mr. Colmers was a senior program officer for the Milbank Memorial Fund, which provides nonpartisan analysis, study, research, and communication on significant issues in health policy. Prior to joining the fund, he spent 19 years in Maryland state government where he held several positions, including executive director of the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the agency overseeing Maryland's all-payer hospital rate setting system. He was a director of CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield and the chairman of one of its affiliates, CareFirst of Maryland, Inc. Mr. Colmers is currently board chairman of AcademyHealth. He is a past chair of the steering committee of the Reforming States Group, a bipartisan group of executive and legislative leaders. Mr. Colmers has a B.S. degree from the Johns Hopkins University and an M.P.H. from UNC-Chapel Hill.

LEN M. NICHOLS, Ph.D., an economist and health policy analyst, is director of the Health Policy Program at the New America Foundation, which aims to expand health insurance coverage to all Americans while reining in costs and improving the efficiency of the overall health care system. Before joining New America, Dr. Nichols was vice president at the Center for Studying Health System Change, a principal research associate at the Urban Institute, and the senior advisor for health policy at the Office of Management and Budget during the Clinton reform efforts of 1993-94. He has testified frequently before Congress and state legislators and has published widely in a variety of health related journals. Previously, Dr. Nichols was chair of the Economics Department at Wellesley College, where he taught for 10 years. He also served as a member of the Competitive Pricing Advisory Commission and the 2001 Technical Review Panel for the Medicare Trustees Reports. He was on the advisory panel to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Covering America project and has been a consultant to the World Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank, and the Pan American Health Organization. Dr. Nichols received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois.

DIANE ROWLAND, Ph.D., is executive vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and executive director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Rowland is an authority on health policy, Medicare and Medicaid, and health care for low-income, elderly, and disadvantaged populations and has published widely on these subjects. Her federal health policy experience includes service on the staff of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, as well as senior health policy positions in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Secretary and the Health Care Financing Administration. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a founding member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, past president and fellow of the Association for Health Services Research, and a senior advisor to the Brookdale Foundation Fellowship in Gerontology. She has served as a national expert on the Governor's Health Reform Task Force in Louisiana, the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality, and the Commonwealth Commission on the Future of Health Insurance and Commission on Women's Health. Dr. Rowland holds a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College, a master's in public administration from the University of California at Los Angeles and a doctor of science in health policy and management from the Johns Hopkins University.