

What's Next for Health Care Reform?

Key Proposals to Strengthen the Affordable Care Act

Speaker Biographies

Linda Blumberg is a senior fellow in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She is an expert on employer and nongroup health insurance, health care financing, and health system reform. Her recent work includes extensive research related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA); in particular, providing technical assistance to states, tracking policy decisionmaking and implementation efforts at the state level, and interpreting and analyzing the implications of particular policies. She codirects a large, multiyear project using qualitative and quantitative methods to monitor and evaluate ACA implementation nationally and in select states. Other research includes codirecting 22 state case studies of stakeholder perspectives on ACA implementation, assessing the implications of self-insurance among small employers on insurance reforms, and comparing the importance of employer and individual mandates in reaching ACA objectives. She also led the quantitative analysis supporting the development of a “Roadmap to Universal Coverage” in Massachusetts, a project with her Urban colleagues that informed the 2006 comprehensive reforms in that state. Blumberg frequently testifies before Congress and is quoted in major media outlets on health reform topics. She serves on the Cancer Policy Institute’s advisory board and has served on the *Health Affairs* editorial board. From 1993 to 1994, she was a health policy adviser to the Clinton administration during its health care reform effort, and she was a 1996 Ian Axford fellow in public policy. She received her PhD in economics from the University of Michigan.

John Holahan is an Institute fellow in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where he was center director for over 30 years. His recent work focuses on health reform, the uninsured, and health expenditure growth, developing proposals for health system reform most recently in Massachusetts. He examines the coverage, costs, and economic impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including the costs of Medicaid expansion as well as the macroeconomic effects of the law. He has also analyzed the health status of Medicaid and exchange enrollees, and the implications for costs and exchange premiums. Holahan has written on competition in insurer and provider markets and implications for premiums and government subsidy costs as well as on the cost-containment provisions of the ACA. Holahan has conducted significant work on Medicaid and Medicare reform, including analyses on the recent growth in Medicaid expenditures, implications of block grants and swap proposals on states and the federal government, and the effect of state decisions to expand Medicaid on federal and state spending. Recent work on Medicare includes a paper on reforms that could both reduce budgetary impacts and improve the structure of the program. His work on the uninsured explores reasons for the growth in the uninsured over time and the effects of proposals to expand health insurance coverage on the number of uninsured and the cost to federal and state governments.



Timothy Stoltzfus Jost is an emeritus professor at the Washington and Lee University School of Law. He coauthored the widely used casebook *Health Law*. He is also the author of *Health Care at Risk: A Critique of the Consumer-Driven Movement*, *Health Care Coverage Determinations: An International Comparative Study*, *Readings in Comparative Health Law and Bioethics*, and many articles and book chapters on health care regulation and comparative health law and policy. He has written numerous monographs on legal issues in health care reform for national organizations and blogs regularly on regulatory issues for *Health Affairs*, where he is a contributing editor. He is a consumer representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Harold Pollack is a fellow at The Century Foundation, where he writes about poverty policy and public health. He is the Helen Ross Professor at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. He also codirects the University of Chicago Crime Lab. His research appears in such journals as *Addiction*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Health Services Research*, and *Health Affairs*. He is a regular contributor to the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, healthinsurance.org, and many other publications. A past president of the health politics and policy section of the American Political Science Association, Pollack has been appointed to three committees of the National Academy of Sciences's Institute of Medicine.

Robert Reischauer is a distinguished Institute fellow and president emeritus of the Urban Institute, which he led from 2000 to 2012. His research interests and expertise focus on the federal budget, health policy, Medicare, Social Security, and income distribution. Reischauer directed the Congressional Budget Office from 1989 to 1995 and was a senior fellow in the Economic Studies Program at the Brookings Institution from 1986 to 1989 and from 1995 to 2000. Reischauer is one of two public trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds and a founding member of the Academy of Social Insurance, which recognized him with the Robert M. Ball Award in 2012. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Science, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Academy of Public Administration. He was a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, serving as vice-chair from 2001 to 2009. Reischauer, who serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, is the senior fellow of the Harvard Corporation. He holds an AB from Harvard University and an MA in international affairs and PhD in economics from Columbia University.

Julie Rovner is the Robin Toner distinguished fellow at Kaiser Health News. She spent 16 years as health policy correspondent for NPR, where she helped lead the network's coverage of the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. A noted expert on health policy issues, Rovner is the author of the critically praised reference book *Health Care Politics and Policy A-Z*. In 2005, she was awarded the National Press Foundation's Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for distinguished reporting of Congress for her coverage of the passage of the Medicare prescription drug law and its aftermath. Before joining NPR, Rovner covered health policy for *National Journal's* "Congress Daily," *Congressional Quarterly*, and other publications. She has a degree in political science from University of Michigan.



Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute. A public policy executive and housing markets expert, she was President Clinton's deputy assistant for economic policy and the deputy director of his National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. In 2012, she was named a "Woman of Influence" by *HousingWire*. Wartell cofounded the Center for American Progress, serving as its first chief operating officer and general counsel. Later, as executive vice president, Wartell oversaw its policy teams and fellows. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and the "Doing What Works" government performance program. Wartell practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter and was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. Wartell has an AB degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and holds a JD degree from Yale Law School.

Gail R. Wilensky is an economist and a senior fellow at Project HOPE, an international health foundation. Her focus has been on strategies to reform health care, with particular emphasis in recent years on Medicare, comparative effectiveness research, and military health care. Wilensky is a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mine Workers of America and the National Opinion Research Center, and is on the board of regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the visiting committee of the Harvard Medical and Dental Schools, and the Geisinger Health System Foundation. She was recently president of the Defense Health Board, a federal advisory board to the secretary of defense. She was also a commissioner on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and cochaired the Department of Defense Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. She was the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from 1990 to 1992 and chair of the Medicare Payment Advisor Commission from 1997 to 2001.

Mark Zuckerman is president of The Century Foundation. He served in the Obama White House as the deputy director of the Domestic Policy Council, leading teams on key initiatives, including reducing student debt, increasing accountability at for-profit educational institutions, reducing workplace discrimination, increasing wages for home health care workers, and expanding access to job training. Before that, as staff director of the House Education and Labor Committee, he helped win passage of landmark legislation such as the Affordable Care Act, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.