

What's Next for States and the ACA

SESSION BIOGRAPHIES

NCSL Legislative Summit - August 5, 2015

(alphabetical order)

Joseph Antos, PhD is the Wilson H. Taylor Scholar in Health Care and Retirement Policy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where his research focuses on the economics of health policy, including the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, the uninsured, and the overall reform of the health care system and its financing. He also studies the impact of health care expenditures on federal budget policy.

Before joining AEI, Antos was Assistant Director for Health and Human Resources for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). He has also held senior positions in the US Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Management and Budget, and the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He recently completed a seven-year term as Health Adviser to CBO, and two terms as a commissioner of the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission.

In 2013, he was also named Adjunct Associate Professor of emergency medicine at George Washington University. Antos has a Ph.D. and a M.A. in economics from the University of Rochester and a B.A. in mathematics from Cornell University.

Joel Ario, J.D. a Managing Director at Manatt Health Solutions, has 30 years of experience helping to shape and implement public policy, including two decades devoted to leading health insurance reform efforts at the state and federal government levels.

Mr. Ario previously served as founding Director of the Office of Health Insurance Exchanges at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), where he worked closely with states and other stakeholders in leading HHS efforts to develop the regulatory framework for exchanges, including the rights and responsibilities of states and the federal government in expanding coverage, overseeing the insurance marketplace, and safeguarding consumer rights.

Prior to his federal service, Mr. Ario was Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner from 2007 to 2010 and Oregon Insurance Commissioner from 2000 to 2007. Mr. Ario served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) for a decade and was an NAIC officer from 2003 to 2005. Mr. Ario serves as an advisor to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in support of its State Health Reform Assistance Network, and is a member of the Leavitt Partners Future Panel.

Herbert C. Conaway, Jr., MD, JD, of Delanco, was first elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1997. The only member of the Legislature with both medical and law degrees, he now serves as Democratic Majority Whip and is Chair of the Assembly Health and Senior Services. Dr. Conaway Practices in Willingboro, NJ, where he specializes in internal medicine. He chaired NCSL's Federal Health Reform Implementation Task Force from 2010 to 2014; he also serves as a member of the NCSL Executive Committee.

Dr. Conaway received his Bachelor of Arts in politics from Princeton University, his Doctor of Medicine from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and his Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School in Camden. He served in the United States Air Force Medical Corps and attained the rank of Captain.

Michael Gronstal. Senator Mike Gronstal has represented the Council Bluffs and Carter Lake region in western Iowa for more than 30 years, two in the House and 31 in the Senate. He is NCSL's vice-president for 2014-2015. He has served as Senate president, Minority Leader, Majority Whip and Assistant Majority Leader. During the Iowa Senate's historic tie in 2005-2006, he was elected to serve as Co-leader. Currently, he is the Senate majority leader and chairman of the Rules & Administration Committee and Legislative Council. Gronstal believes that governing should be a bipartisan effort, and this was reflected in what many called an impressive, even landmark, session last year with a noticeable lack of gridlock.

Gronstal has been a social worker, shipping clerk and stay-at-home dad, and during his years in office, he has focused on creating better jobs, improving education, and making health care available for all Iowans. Gronstal is a graduate of Antioch College in Ohio, a third generation Council Bluffs resident, husband to Connie and father of two grown daughters.

Steve Rauschenberger is founder of the firm, Rauschenberger Partners. LLC. Prior to that Rauschenberger served for fifteen years in the Illinois State Senate, holding various leadership positions, including Assistant Republican Leader and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Rauschenberger is a past president of NCSL, where he also served as co-chair of the Taskforce on Telecommunications and Electronic Commerce. He represented the organization throughout the United States and internationally, concluding two cooperative agreements between NCSL and regional parliaments in Europe, as well as leading a senior delegation to India.

Rauschenberger served as faculty instructor to the Algerian Parliament for the U.S. State Department Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), and assisted in a survey of the Niger and Senegal parliaments as part of a MEPI initiative.

Prior to his tenure in government, Rauschenberger was President of Ackemann Brothers, Inc., which owned and operated three retail furniture stores. Before taking that position he was a partner in the Rauschenberger Furniture Company, a third generation retail furniture business. A graduate of the College of William & Mary with a BBA, Rauschenberger serves on a number of professional and legislative boards.

Senator Ellen Roberts, JD. (R-Durango), was elected to the Colorado Senate in 2010 and ran unopposed for re-election in 2014. Prior to being in the Senate, Ellen served two terms in the Colorado House. Her district in southwestern Colorado includes 8 politically diverse, rural counties.

Senator Roberts was elected by her Republican caucus to be Senate President pro tem in 2015 and she chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee and is the vice-chair of the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy Committee. In addition, she is chairing the 2015 Legislative Health Insurance Exchange Oversight Committee. Water Resources Review Committee during the 2015 interim and has served on the Wildfire Matters interim committee since it was established. Ellen has worked internationally in legislative strengthening programs in Algeria, South Africa and Mozambique and served on the Executive Committee of NCSL. Senator Roberts just completed serving as co-chair of NCSL's Budgets and Revenue committee, which principally focuses on the fiscal and jurisdictional issues that exist between states and the federal government.

Senator Charles Scott, MBA has been a Republican member of the Wyoming legislature for more than 35 years, serving in the House 1979-1982 and the Senate since 1983. He chairs the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. He also is Vice-Chairman of the Reforming States Group.

As a State Senator, he has sponsored 65 bills that have become law, including legislation that established the Hathaway scholarship, brought more competition to gasoline marketing by repealing archaic price regulations, defended the second amendment when the trial lawyers attacked the gun manufacturers, and revised the Corporations Act. His committee sponsored and he partly wrote the 1996 Welfare Reform Act which has reduced the people on cash grant welfare system by more than 90%. In 2012 he stated that his "first priority is to try to get control of the spending increases in our billion dollar Medicaid program."

He works as a rancher, in Casper Wyoming. He is a graduate of Harvard College with a BA and Harvard Business School with an MBA.

NOTE: Biographies are shortened for ease of use in sessions. Further information is available online

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