

Biography of Speakers

Health Care Agenda for the New Congress

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

DREW E. ALTMAN, Ph.D.

Drew Altman is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation. It develops and runs its own research and communications programs, often in partnership with outside organizations. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries. One of the nation's largest private foundations devoted to health, the Foundation is a trusted independent voice and source of research and information on health care in the United States. Since 1987, the Foundation has also operated a major program supporting efforts to develop a more equitable health system in South Africa. The Foundation is based in Menlo Park, California, and also operates major facilities in Washington, D.C., including its Barbara Jordan Conference Center and broadcast studio. In 1991, Dr. Altman came to the Foundation and directed a complete overhaul of its mission and operating style, leading to the Foundation's standing today as a leader in health policy and communications. Dr. Altman is a former Commissioner of the Department of Human Services for the state of New Jersey under Governor Tom Kean (1986-1989). Prior to joining the Foundation in 1990, Dr. Altman was director of the Health and Human Services program at the Pew Charitable Trusts. He was a vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation from 1981 to 1986, and served in a senior position in the Health Care Financing Administration in the Carter administration. Dr. Altman received his BA from Brandeis University and received his masters in political science from Brown University. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, did his post-doctoral work at the Harvard School of Public Health, and taught graduate courses in public policy at MIT before moving on to public service. Dr. Altman is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is an innovator in the world of foundations and a leading expert on national health policy who publishes and speaks widely on health issues.

ROBERT J. BLENDON, Sc.D.

Dr. Robert Blendon is Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis in both the Harvard University School of Public Health and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also serves as a faculty member in the Shorenstein Center on Press and Politics at the Kennedy School. In addition, he directs the Harvard Opinion Research Program and the Kaiser-Harvard Program on the Public and Health/Social Policy, which focuses on improving understanding of public knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about major domestic public policy issues. He also co-directs *The Washington Post*/Harvard University /Kaiser Family Foundation survey project, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Dr. Blendon has served as Chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health and as Deputy Director of the Harvard University Division of Health Policy Research and Education. Previously, he was Senior Vice President at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Blendon is best known for his analysis of public opinion and voting behavior on domestic and health policy issues and national spending priorities, for his work comparing public satisfaction with their national health systems in twelve countries and for his research on public attitudes on Social Security and Medicare reform.

MOLLYANN BRODIE, Ph.D.

Mollyann Brodie is Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Currently, she directs a variety of public knowledge and survey related projects including ongoing survey partnerships with the *Washington Post* and the *San Jose Mercury News*. Her research efforts focus on understanding public opinion and knowledge on policy issues, and the role of the media in health policy debates. Her research has been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* and *Health Affairs*. She received her Ph.D. in Health Policy from Harvard University.

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