

**The Health Care Agenda For The New President And Congress**  
**Speaker Biographies**  
**Thursday, January 15, 2009**

**Drew E. Altman**

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, with a growing role in global health. 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 late 1990, 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 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 at MIT before moving on to public service. Dr. Altman is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Council on Foreign Relations, and the Institute of Medicine, and serves on the governing Council of the Institute. 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**

Robert J. Blendon is currently professor of health policy and political analysis at both the Harvard School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School and has received outstanding teaching awards from both institutions. He has also received both the national Eisenberg award and the Mendelsohn award for excellence in mentoring. He also directs the Harvard Opinion Research Program, which focuses on the better understanding of public knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about major domestic public policy issues. Dr. Blendon also co-directs the *Washington Post*/Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) survey project, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and previously directed a project for National Public Radio and KFF on American attitudes toward health and social policy, which was cited by the *National Journal* as setting a new standard of public opinion surveys in broadcast journalism. Dr. Blendon has received a number of awards of national recognition, including the Baxter Distinguished Investigator Award for Lifetime Achievement, the AHSR Distinguished Investigator Award, and the Warren J.

Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research. From 1987 to 1996, Dr. Blendon served as chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health and as the deputy director of the Harvard University Division of Health Policy Research and Education. Prior to his Harvard appointment, he was senior vice-president at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Blendon was senior editor of a three volume series *The Future of American Health Care* and is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a former member of the advisory committee to the director of the Center for Disease Control, and a former member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Blendon is a graduate of Marietta College and received his master's of business administration and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, respectively.

**Mollyann Brodie**

Mollyann Brodie is Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Survey 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, USA Today, and National Public Radio. 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.