

The Health Care Agenda For The New President And Congress
Speaker Biographies
Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Drew 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, communications and journalism 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, staff, and operating style, leading to the Foundation's standing today as a leader in health policy, communications and journalism. Dr. Altman is a former Commissioner of the Department of Human Services for the state of New Jersey under Governor Tom Kean (1986-1989). As Commissioner, he developed nationally recognized initiatives in welfare reform, school-based youth services, programs for the homeless, and Medicaid managed care. Prior to joining the Foundation in 1990, Dr. Altman was Director of the Health and Human Services program at the Pew Charitable Trusts; Vice President of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation from 1981 to 1986, where he led the development of the Foundation's programs in HIV/AIDS, health services for the homeless, and health care financing; 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. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Morehouse School of Medicine. 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

Dr. Robert J. Blendon is Senior Associate Dean for Policy Translation and Leadership Development at the Harvard School of Public Health. He also serves as Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis in both the Harvard University School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Between 1987 and 1996 he 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. Prior to his Harvard appointment, Dr. Blendon was senior vice-president at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. During that time, the Foundation was cited by the *New York Times* as one of the innovative foundations in the United States. In addition, he has served as a senior faculty member for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Governor's Association, and the U.S. Congress Committee on Ways and Means. Dr. Blendon teaches courses on both Political Strategy

in Health Policy and Public Opinion Polling at the Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard School of Public Health. He also directs the Political Analysis track in the University's Ph.D. Program in Health Policy. He has received outstanding teaching awards from both schools. In addition, he directs the Harvard Opinion Research Program, which focuses on the better understanding of public knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about major domestic public policy issues. Currently, he co-directs a special series with the *Washington Post*/Harvard University/Kaiser Family Foundation survey project, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Additionally, Dr. Blendon co-directed a special survey project for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* on health care, part of a series that received the National Press Club's 1998 Award for Consumer Journalism. He also co-directed a project for National Public Radio and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation on American attitudes toward health and social policy. The series was cited by the *National Journal* as setting a new standard for use of public opinion surveys in broadcast journalism. Dr. Blendon is also co-author of *American Public Opinion and Health Care*. Dr. Blendon is a member of the Institute of Medicine, of the National Academy of Sciences and of the Council of Foreign Relations, a former member of the advisory board to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, former trustee of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and a former member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He is also a Past President of the Association of Health Services Research and winner of their Distinguished Investigator Award. He is also a recipient of the Baxter Award for lifetime achievement in the health services research field. He has also received the John M. Eisenberg Excellence in Mentorship Award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Mendelsohn award from Harvard University. In 2008, he was the recipient of the Warren J. Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research given by the Roper Center. He is a graduate of Marietta College. He is also a graduate of the School of Business at the University of Chicago, with a Masters in Business Administration. In addition, he holds a Doctoral degree from the School of Public Health of Johns Hopkins University, where his principal attention was directed toward health policy.

Mollyann Brodie

Mollyann Brodie is Senior Vice President for Executive Operations and Director of Public Opinion and Survey Research of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. She is responsible for all aspects of the Foundation's public opinion survey efforts, including the monthly Kaiser Health Tracking poll, the Foundation's work on Americans' attitudes toward global health policy, and the ongoing survey partnerships with media organizations including the *Washington Post* and NPR. Brodie's research efforts focus on understanding public opinion and knowledge on health care policy issues, and the role of opinion 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*. Brodie is co-editor of the book *American Public Opinion and Health Care* (CQ Press, 2011). Brodie also currently serves on the voluntary Board of Directors for the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research and on the Education Committee for the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). She previously served on AAPOR's Executive Council and as president of its Pacific Chapter, PAPOR. She received her Ph.D. in Health Policy from Harvard University.