

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Raising Medicare's Eligibility Age: A Complex Proposition**

Monday, December 17, 2012

**DAVID CERTNER** is legislative counsel and director of legislative policy for government affairs at AARP. He has been with AARP since 1982, and is a member of AARP's leadership team. He serves as counsel for the association's legislative, regulatory, and policy efforts, as well as for litigation opportunities before the courts. Prior to assuming his current role in 2007, Mr. Certner served as director of AARP's 25 person federal affairs shop, where he headed up all federal legislative and regulatory activity. In both roles, Mr. Certner has testified numerous times before both Congress and regulatory bodies, and has made frequent appearances on TV, on radio, as well as in print publications. Mr. Certner also previously served as chairman of the ERISA Advisory Council of the Department of Labor, and was appointed as a delegate to the 1998, 2002, and 2006 National Summits on Retirement Savings. He is currently a member of Bloomberg/BNA's Pension and Benefits Reporter Advisory Board. Mr. Certner, an attorney, received his law degree from the National Law Center at George Washington University.

**JULIETTE CUBANSKI** is associate director of the Program on Medicare Policy at The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C. As a senior member of the foundation's Medicare policy team, Dr. Cubanski helps lead the foundation's activities related to the Kaiser Project on Medicare's Future, a major foundation initiative focused on producing timely and authoritative analysis of leading Medicare reform proposals, and on informing the debate about the future of the Medicare program. As part of these efforts, Dr. Cubanski has coauthored two studies analyzing the cost and coverage effects of raising the age of eligibility for Medicare and restructuring Medicare's benefit design. She also has been extensively involved in the foundation's efforts to monitor the implementation of Medicare provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 and assess the implications for people on Medicare. In addition, Dr. Cubanski has helped lead the foundation's analytic efforts related to the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit and how the private drug plan marketplace has evolved since its inception in 2006. She also conducts research and analysis related to Medicare's long-term financial condition; the financial burden of health spending among Medicare beneficiaries; and Medicare beneficiaries with disabilities. Dr. Cubanski earned a Ph.D. in health policy at Harvard University, master of public policy and master of public health degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

**PAUL DENNETT** is senior vice president for health care reform at the American Benefits Council, a trade association based in Washington, D.C. representing primarily Fortune 500 companies that either sponsor or administer health and retirement benefits covering more than 100 million Americans. Mr. Dennett joined the American Benefits Council in 1996 after previously serving as the executive director for congressional relations for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. He also served on the staff of U.S. Senator Max Baucus, D-Mont., as the legislative assistant for health policy. Before working on Capitol

*(over)*

Hill, he worked on legislative and budget issues in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine with a degree in government and legal studies and has a master's degree in public administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is a former Presidential Management Intern and a Congressional Fellow.

**GAIL 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. Dr. Wilensky serves as a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mine Workers of America and the National Opinion Research Center, is on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Geisinger Health System Foundation and the Visiting Committee of the Harvard Medical School. She recently served as president of the Defense Health Board, a federal advisory board to the Secretary of Defense, was a commissioner on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, and co-chaired the Department of Defense Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care. She was the administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration (now called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) from 1990 to 1992 and deputy assistant for policy development to President George H. W. Bush in 1992. She chaired the Physician Payment Review Commission from 1995 to 1997 and MedPAC, which advises Congress on Medicare payment policy from 1997 to 2001. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and has served two terms on its governing council. She is a former chair of the board of directors of Academy Health, a former trustee of the American Heart Association and a current or former director of numerous other nonprofit organizations, including the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the University of the Sciences, Philadelphia. She is also a director of United Health Group and Quest Diagnostics. Dr. Wilensky testifies frequently before congressional committees, serves as an advisor to members of Congress and other elected officials, and speaks nationally and internationally. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan and has received several honorary degrees.