

*Investing in Texas: Financing Health Coverage Expansion
Conference Proceedings*

Biographies of Speakers and Panelists

Raymond C. Scheppach, Executive Director, National Governors Association

Ray Scheppach was appointed executive director of the National Governors Association (NGA) in January 1983. As executive director, Ray oversees the day-to-day operations of the association and works closely with NGA's chair and vice chair and their staffs to help identify priorities for the nation's governors. Through NGA, the governors deal collectively with issues of public policy and governance at both the national and state levels. The association's mission is to provide a forum for governors to exchange views and experiences among themselves; assistance in solving state focused problems; information on state innovations and practices; and a bipartisan forum for governors to establish, influence, and implement policy on national issues. Prior to NGA, Ray worked for seven years at the Congressional Budget Office, serving the last two years as Deputy Director.

Under his leadership, NGA has risen to become one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington. NGA was ranked 12th by Fortune magazine in its 1999 annual survey of the most influential trade associations, labor unions, and interest groups. As an advocate for federalism, Ray has testified before Congress on behalf of the nation's governors on numerous occasions. He has written numerous professional articles on various public policy issues and has authored and co-authored four books on economics, including co-writing the 1984 book *New Directions in Economic Policy: An Agenda for the 1980s*.

Ray is one of the country's foremost experts on the role of government in the new economy. He co-authored the NGA report "Governance in the New Economy" which examines the forces shaping the U.S. economy and influencing American governance; testified before Congress in support of wireless tax legislation; and has guided NGA's efforts to radically simplify state sales and use tax codes to support e-commerce in the 21st century. Ray received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Maine, and his master's and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Connecticut.

Mark Gibson, Oregon Governor's Office, Governor's Policy Advisor, Healthcare, Human Services, and Labor

Mark Gibson began his work in public policy as an assistant fire chief and chief medical officer. He left the fire service in 1985 to serve as Executive Assistant to then-Senate President John Kitzhaber. In this capacity he was intimately involved in the creation of the Oregon Health Plan and subsequently has been involved with its implementation at

the state and federal levels through waivers. He has also studied its progress and made recommendations for adjusting its approach. Mark has also worked as a consultant to state governments on health policy issues. He currently serves as Policy Advisor to the Governor of Oregon for Health Care and Human Services issues.

Mark is a widely recognized expert in health care and health care access. He has lectured both nationally and internationally about health care access, health care reform, and managed care. In January 2002, he spoke to medical professionals and national leaders in China about establishing a managed care system in their country. Also in January, Mark and Governor Kitzhaber were the featured speakers at the 2002 National Health Policy Conference discussing critical health issues in the United States. In October 2001, he addressed the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association to discuss health care expansion. In August 2001, he spoke at an international meeting on controlling pharmaceutical costs and long term care.

Mark is the Chair of the Reforming States Group (RSG). RSG is a project of the Milbank Foundation (NY) to reform health care policies and health care decision making in the United States. Members of the group are state and federal policy makers and legislators. Mark was also tapped as a member of a federal panel on health care ethics. He has also been an invited speaker on this topic, most recently at the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Ethics Department Symposium.

As an advisor to Governor Kitzhaber, Mark has also led efforts to coordinate the delivery of health and human services among state agencies and their local and federal partners, including the provision of public health, alcohol and drug and mental health services.

Senator Rodney Ellis, Chair, Senate Finance Committee, Texas Legislature

Currently serving his fifth term as a Texas State Senator from Houston, Rodney Ellis has earned praise as a legislative leader on economic development, education, civil rights, tax cuts, criminal justice, and workforce development issues. Ellis is an attorney and successful businessman. He co-founded Apex Securities, Inc., an investment banking firm that is affiliated with Rice Financial Products Company, a nationally recognized municipal interest rate swap firm.

During his legislative career, Senator Ellis has authored or sponsored 309 bills that became law. Highlights include passage of the \$340 million TEXAS Grants Program to provide free college tuition and fees to qualifying students, benefiting thousands of Texas families and creating a more skilled, competitive workforce. Senator Ellis passed a \$506 million tax relief bill creating the three-day sales tax holiday and providing businesses franchise tax relief for job creation, capital investment, and research and development. He sponsored bills requiring private nonprofit hospitals, which receive important tax breaks, to provide modest levels of health care to uninsured patients. He also passed the James Byrd, Jr., Act, a tough anti-hate crimes law, improved the indigent criminal justice system, and reformed homeowners associations. He has also fought to ban the execution of the mentally retarded.

From 1999 to 2001, Ellis was the President Pro Tem of the Texas Senate, and served as Acting Governor of Texas for 50 days, an unprecedented and historic period of service. He also served as Acting Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate when Rick Perry became Governor.

Prior to his election to the Texas Senate, Ellis served as Chief of Staff to the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. Ellis served three terms as a member of the Houston City Council. He holds a bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

Ellis currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and is a member of the Senate Redistricting and Jurisprudence Committees. Additionally, he serves on the Council on Foreign Relations, the U.S. Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, the University of Texas Law School Foundation Board, and the Board of Directors for the Center for Policy Alternatives.

Chet Brooks

Former State Senator Chet Brooks, now a policy consultant, has been working on health care and human services issues since 1963, when he supported creation of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation during his first term as a House member. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 1966 and served as Chairman of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee from 1973 until 1993. He also worked in the appropriations process as a member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Legislative Budget Board. He was an author or sponsor of many major initiatives, including the implementation of Medicaid in 1967, enactment of the Indigent Care Program in 1985, and creation of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in 1991.

Anne Dunkelberg

As part of the Center for Public Policy Priorities' fiscal analysis team, Anne Dunkelberg works on health care access, human service budget issues, and spearheads the center's research on the impacts of welfare reform on Texas immigrants. She also brings considerable experience and expertise on Medicaid budget and policy issues. Anne joined the center in November 1994, coming from her position as Program Director for Acute Care in the Texas Medicaid Director's Office. Previously, Anne spent six years with the Texas Research League where she was the author of a number of reports on Texas health and human services issues, in addition to tracking state HHS appropriations and spending. Anne is a native Texan, and has a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin.

John Guest

Mr. Guest is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Harris County Hospital District. Before settling to Houston, Mr. Guest was CEO of the University Health

System in San Antonio for 15 years. He developed the CareLink Program for uninsured patients, pioneered the creation of the Texas Diabetes Institute, provided health care for inmates in juvenile and adult detention facilities, and much more. Among other positions, he is director of the National Association of Public and Non-Profit Hospitals.

Ronald Luke, Ph.D., J.D.

Ron Luke is the president of two companies: Research & Planning Consultants, LP, providing economic, public policy, and financial analysis to clients throughout the country; and Forté, Inc., which provides utilization review, case management, and medical bill review services. Ron has been active in the health policy arena for several decades. He was an original member and later chairman of the Texas Department of Insurance's Utilization Review Advisory Committee. Governor Bush appointed him as an original member of the Texas Health Care Information Council. He had a major role in the development of the Texas hospital discharge data system. He has served as an advisor to committees of the Texas Legislature on health insurance mandates and major revisions to the Workers' Compensation Act. He serves on health policy and workers' compensation task forces for the Texas Association of Business, for whom he is a director. Ron earned his undergraduate degree magna cum laude from Harvard College. He was awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship in economics. His Ph.D. is from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and his law degree is from the University of Texas Law School.

Jim Walton, D.O.

Dr. Walton received his medical degree from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and completed his Internal Medicine residency at Methodist Medical Center of Dallas, Texas. As part of Baylor Health Care System's administrative team, he completed the Health Care Forum's Community Health Fellowship in 1998. He currently serves as Baylor's Medical Director for Community Health and practices internal medicine part-time in both Dallas and Waxahachie, Texas. In addition to these duties, Dr. Walton leads the community health improvement efforts for Baylor's physician organization, HealthTexas Provider Network, and is an active member of Dallas County Medical Society, serving on the Community Service Committee. He is also a member of the Texas Medical Association and American College of Physicians. Additionally, Dr. Walton participates in clinical research relating to community health improvement with Dr. Mark DeHaven and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Division of Family and Community Medicine.