

Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing
**“An Oversight Hearing on Providing Relief to Seniors Who Have
Fallen into the Prescription Drug ‘Donut Hole’”**

Witness Biographies

David Madison

Mr. Madison, a resident of Lakewood, Colorado, was a union bricklayer for 40 years. In April of this year, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. In July, he fell into the Medicare prescription drug “donut hole.” His treatment will require expensive medication for the rest of his life.

Pamela Bell

Ms. Bell, a resident of Jacksonville, North Carolina, is disabled, receives prescription drug coverage through Medicare, and is currently in the donut hole. Prior to leaving her job due to illness, she was a Production Manager with a small silver reclamation company.

Melvin Kinnison

Mr. Kinnison, a resident of Huntington Beach, California, is a retired sheriff’s deputy and a Part D beneficiary who is in the donut hole. He is taking multiple medications for several conditions, including diabetes, congestive heart failure, and prostate cancer.

Ron Pollack

Families USA

Ron Pollack is the Founding Executive Director of Families USA, the national organization for health care consumers. Families USA’s mission is to achieve high-quality, affordable health coverage for everyone in the United States.

In 1997 and 1998, Mr. Pollack was appointed the sole consumer organization representative on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry. In that capacity, Mr. Pollack helped develop the Patients’ Bill of Rights that has passed in many state legislatures and that is also pending in the Congress.

Mr. Pollack is also the Founder and Chair of the Health Assistance Partnership, an entity that works with health care ombudsman programs across the country to help consumers navigate the increasingly complex health care system.

Mr. Pollack was the Founding Executive Director of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a leading national organization focused on the elimination of hunger in the U.S. In that capacity, Mr. Pollack brought litigation that resulted in the creation of the “WIC” Program for malnourished mothers and infants.

Gerard Anderson

Johns Hopkins University
Bloomberg School of Public Health

Gerard Anderson is a professor of Health Policy and Management and International Health at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School Public Health and a professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Anderson also serves as the National Program Director for “Partnership for Solutions: Better Lives for People with Chronic Conditions,” a program sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Anderson is currently conducting research on chronic conditions, comparative insurance systems in developing countries, medical education, hospital payment reform, and technology diffusion. Prior to his arrival at Johns Hopkins in 1983, Dr. Anderson held various positions in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he helped develop the Medicare prospective payment legislation.

He has authored two books on health care payment policy, has published 160 peer reviewed articles, testified in Congress over 25 times, and serves on multiple editorial committees.

Robert Hayes

Medicare Rights Center

Robert Hayes is President and General Counsel of the Medicare Rights Center, the largest independent source of health care information and assistance in the United States for people with Medicare. Before joining the Medicare Rights Center, Mr. Hayes led the National and New York Coalitions for the Homeless from 1979 to 1989, and practiced law with firms in New York and Maine, including Sullivan and Cromwell and O’Melveny and Myers. A graduate of Georgetown University and the New York University School of Law, he is a MacArthur Foundation fellow and has received honorary degrees from ten colleges and universities.