



FIFTH ANNUAL

# HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED

*A Look Ahead to the 2015 Legislative Session*

FREIGHT DEPOT  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015  
7:30 – 11:00 A.M.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for Georgians for a Healthy Future's fifth annual *Health Care Unscrambled* policy breakfast! We are honored that you are sharing your morning with us to discuss the health policy landscape both nationally and here in Georgia for 2015.

It is an exciting time for community health advocates: Georgians are enrolling in health insurance in high numbers, which means better access to health care services and greater financial security for individuals and families in our state. Georgians for a Healthy Future is proud to play a role in connecting consumers to coverage through outreach, education, and enrollment assistance.

Despite this progress, too many Georgians still lack a pathway to affordable health insurance. In fact, nearly 300,000 uninsured Georgians fall into the coverage gap, which means they neither qualify for Medicaid under current rules nor do they earn enough to qualify for tax credits to purchase private health insurance.

Closing the coverage gap is one of Georgians for a Healthy Future's top priorities this year. We hope you will join us as we advocate for this and other evidence-based public policies that can cover uninsured Georgians, facilitate access to care, and improve health outcomes. We need your continued support and partnership as we work to make access to high quality health care and the opportunity to achieve good health a reality for everyone in our state.

This morning, we are delighted to welcome two powerhouse panels: first we will hear from a bipartisan group of state legislators about the most pressing health care policy issues facing the General Assembly, and then we will spotlight successful Southern approaches to expanding coverage and improving population health in Arkansas and Kentucky and learn about states across the country embarking on innovative health policy initiatives.

We hope you find this morning's event informative and that it inspires you to advocacy. Thank you again for being here today.

Sincerely,



Cindy Zeldin, MPH  
*Executive Director*



Kathy Floyd  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

## PROGRAM AGENDA

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- 7:30 – 8:00 Registration and Breakfast
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- 8:00 – 8:05 Welcome by Cindy Zeldin, Executive Director,  
*Georgians for a Healthy Future*
- 
- 8:05 – 9:15 Bipartisan legislative panel discussion, moderated by *Georgians for a Healthy Future* Board Chair Kathy Floyd, featuring Representative Patty Bentley, Representative Bruce Broadrick, Representative Pat Gardner, Senator Dean Burke, and Senator Chuck Hufstetler
- 
- 9:15 – 10:45 Panel discussion featuring Emily Parento, Executive Director, *Office of Health Policy, State of Kentucky*; Marquita Little, Health Policy Director, *Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families*; and Joan Alker, Executive Director, *Georgetown Center on Children and Families*; moderated by Harry Heiman, *Georgians for a Healthy Future* Board Member
- 
- 10:45 – 10:55 Presentation of *Georgians for a Healthy Future*'s 2015 policy priorities by Laura Colbert, Community Outreach Manager, *Georgians for a Healthy Future*
- 
- 10:55 – 11:00 Closing remarks



REPRESENTATIVE PATTY BENTLEY  
*(D-139)*

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Patty James-Bentley began her career of public service while working as Chief Registrar for the Taylor County Board of Registrars in 1996. She was elected to the Taylor County Board of Commissioners in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. She announced her candidacy for Georgia House District 139 on September 26th, 2011. In a run-off election on August 21, 2012, she won her bid to become the State Representative for HD 139. House District includes, Taylor Macon, and Dooly Counties and the south portion of Peach County. She is the first woman elected to this position in this district of the state. Rep. Bentley ran un-opposed in 2014 and will begin her second term of office in the Georgia General Assembly in 2015.

Mrs. James-Bentley is a proud member of the 2007 class of Leadership Georgia and 2006 class of Leadership Taylor. She completed the Georgia Academy for Economic Development in 2006 and completed the Basic Course for Economic Development at Georgia Tech in March 2008.

Bentley was featured in Georgia Trend magazine in October 2006 for the “40 Under 40” Rising Stars in Georgia.

She has served as Chairman for the Economic Development/Transportation Committee for the Association of County Commissioner of Georgia & and co-founder of the Taylor County Chamber of Commerce.

She has served as President for the Georgia Association of County Commissioners Black Caucus. Rep. Bentley is currently a member of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus.



**REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE BROADRICK**  
*(R-4)*

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Representative Broadrick is a community pharmacist that has served his community for over 38 years. He with his father before him operated a successful, independent pharmacy. He is a graduate of Middle Georgia College and The University of Georgia College of

Pharmacy. Bruce is a former president of the Georgia Pharmacy Association. Additionally, he completed the UGA Carl Vinson Institute Legislative Leadership Program, the GSU Health Policy Training Program, and was recognized as the 2013 Distinguished Alumni for UGA College of Pharmacy.

He has served as Chairman of the Whitfield County Board of Health and is a board member of the Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership. During his professional career, Bruce has received numerous service and leadership awards. He has served on state level committees with the Department of Community Health and the State Board of Workers' Compensation.

Bruce and his wife Mary Ann Mauldin Broadrick have three children and four grandchildren. They are lifelong residents of Whitfield County and attend the First United Methodist Church of Dalton.



**SENATOR DEAN BURKE**  
*(R-11)*

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Senator Dean Burke, a Republican, represents Senate District 11. He serves Colquitt, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller and Seminole counties along with portions of Mitchell and Thomas counties.

Sen. Burke is the Vice-Chairman of the Retirement Committee and is a member of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Health and Human Services and Education and Youth committees.

Prior to being elected to the State Senate, Sen. Burke contributed to his community by serving five years on the Bainbridge City Council. He is also a member of the Rotary Club and previously served on the Hospital Authority of the City of Bainbridge and Decatur County. Sen. Burke also dedicates time to the Boy Scouts of America where he serves as a volunteer.

Sen. Burke graduated Summa Cum Laude from Georgia Southwestern University and went on to graduate from the Medical College of Georgia. He received his specialty training at Mercer University School of Medicine and has since been a practicing physician for 28 years.

Sen. Burke and his wife, Thea, have been married for 32 years and have two grown children. The family belongs to the First United Methodist Church in Bainbridge.



**REPRESENTATIVE PAT GARDNER**  
*(D-57)*

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Pat Gardner was first elected to the House in a 2001 special election. Representative Gardner is currently serving on the Appropriations Committee, Health Subcommittee of Appropriations, Higher Education, Natural Resources and Transportation Committees. She serves as Co-Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus and the Vice Chair of the Fulton Delegation of the Georgia General Assembly.

Pat has lived in Morningside for the past 37 years with her husband, Jerry Gardner, and they have two children, Anita and Bradley. Prior to moving to Atlanta Pat taught high school Spanish for eight years in California, Michigan and Virginia. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Pat studied in Spain for a year and lived in India for another year.

Gardner became the Executive Director of the Georgia Psychological Association in 1977 until her recent retirement and has been a tireless advocate for mental health services. As a Certified Association Executive (CAE), she has worked in leadership positions with the Georgia Association of Association Executives and as President of the American Psychological Association's Council of State Executives.

An advocate for universal access to health care initially for children, Pat has initiated efforts to expand the current PeachCare system to make it available to every Georgia family based on their ability to pay and more recently chaired a work group to investigate duplication in the eligibility systems of Medicaid and PeachCare. She chaired a study committee to evaluate how to reinstate the COLA for state retirees and another one to look at how to provide health insurance benefits for small employers. She passed a bill requiring more recycling on Capitol Hill and sponsored Sustainable Businesses Day at the Capitol for the 6th year in a row.

She has received commendations from the Georgia Conservation Voters, the Georgia Network of Mental Health Consumers, the National Mental Health Association of Georgia, the Association on Developmental Disabilities, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. The Women's Policy Group awarded Pat their legislative award in 2004.



**SENATOR CHUCK HUFSTETLER**  
(R-52)

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Senator Chuck Hufstetler, a Republican, was elected to the State Senate for Georgia's 52nd District in 2012. Sen. Hufstetler represents Floyd County along with portions of Bartow, Chattooga and Gordon counties. Sen. Hufstetler is the Vice-Chairman of the State and Local Government Committee and a member of the Education and Youth, Health and Human Services and Science and Technology committees.

Sen. Hufstetler was elected to the Floyd County Board of Commissioners in 1998. As Commissioner, Hufstetler led the way to cut taxes six times, trimmed the waste of the government by analyzing every expenditure of each department and eliminated the debt for the first time in modern history of the county. He was re-elected in 2002 and elected as Chairman in 2003 and 2004.

Professionally, Sen. Hufstetler worked fourteen years as a corporate manager for Welch Foods and Earthgrain. In 1994, he returned to Rome to buy a long-time Floyd County establishment, Paul's Oyster Bar in the Coosa area.

In 2006, Sen. Hufstetler pursued a life-long passion by enrolling in Emory School of Medicine to become an anesthesiologist. After graduating, he began providing anesthesia to patients at Redmond Regional Hospital where he currently still works.

Chuck is a 1974 graduate of East Rome High School. He has a double major in Biology and Psychology from the University of Georgia, a degree from the American Institute of Baking, and a Masters in Medical Science in Anesthesiology from the Emory School of Medicine.

Chuck is married to the former Joan Bojo and together they have three children: Caleb, a MBA student at Berry College and manager of the family restaurant; Schell, a doctoral student at Georgia State University in Developmental Psychology; and, Rebeckah, a student at Rome Middle School. The Hufstetler's are members of Seven Hills Presbyterian Church in Rome.





**EMILY WHELAN PARENTO, JD, LLM**

**Executive Director**

*State of Kentucky Office of Health Policy, CHFS*

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Emily Whelan Parento is the Executive Director of the Office of Health Policy. Ms. Parento holds a JD and LLM in Global Health Law from Georgetown University Law Center, and a BBA from the University of Notre Dame. Prior to her appointment at the Office of Health Policy, Ms. Parento held a fellowship at Georgetown's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, where she conducted research in domestic and global health law and policy. Ms. Parento has also served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, where she taught health law, administrative law, and a food and drug law seminar. Earlier in her career she practiced litigation at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York and Menlo Park, CA, and Stites & Harbison PLLC in Louisville, KY and served as a federal judicial clerk to the Hon. John G. Heyburn II in Louisville. As Executive Director of the Office of Health Policy, Ms. Parento advises on all health policy matters impacting the health of Kentuckians, and works to build a cohesive, holistic view of health policy at the state level.



**MARQUITA LITTLE**  
Health Policy Director  
*Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families*

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Marquita Little joined Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families in 2014 as the Health Policy Director. She previously served as the Director of Policy and Planning at the Arkansas Department of Human Services, and was actively involved in the department’s health care reform, ACA implementation efforts, and payment improvement initiative. Little has several years of experience in direct services for low-income families and youth in foster care, including work with Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity and Youth Villages in Memphis, TN. Her previous research and policy analysis work has focused on health care payment models, afterschool and summer programs, behavioral health services, and transition aged youth in foster care. Little’s community involvement includes service to Arkansas Nonprofit Association board of directors, Young Nonprofit Professionals (YNPN) Little Rock Chapter, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She earned a Master of Public Service degree from the Clinton School of Public Service and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hendrix College.

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**JOAN ALKER**  
Executive Director, *Georgetown Center for Children and Families*  
Research Associate Professor, *Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy*

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Joan Alker is the Executive Director of the Center for Children and Families and a research associate professor at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy. Her research focuses on health coverage for low-income children and families. She is an expert on Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Joan is a frequent speaker and commentator and has appeared in many media outlets including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Kaiser Health News*, *Associated Press* and *CNN*. Sarah Kliff with VOX Media wrote that Joan Alker “knows more about Medicaid than anyone I’ve ever met.”

Alker has more than twenty years of experience working on issues affecting low-income families. She holds a Master of Philosophy in politics from St. Antony’s College, Oxford University and a Bachelor of Arts with honors in political science from Bryn Mawr College.

## 2015 POLICY PRIORITIES

*Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) is a nonprofit health policy and advocacy organization that provides a voice for Georgia consumers on vital and timely health care issues. Our mission is to build and mobilize a unified voice, vision and leadership to achieve a healthy future for all Georgians.*

*Georgians for a Healthy Future approaches our vision of ensuring access to quality, affordable health care for all Georgians in three major ways*

- 1) outreach and public education,*
- 2) building, managing, and mobilizing coalitions, and*
- 3) public policy advocacy.*



### GEORGIANS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE'S 2015 POLICY PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- » Close Georgia's coverage gap by expanding Medicaid
- » Ensure access to quality health care services for Medicaid and PeachCare beneficiaries
- » Maximize enrollment and ensure a positive experience for Georgia consumers with private health insurance
- » Increase the tobacco tax
- » Re-invest in Georgia's public health infrastructure to support a healthy and prosperous state

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In honor of our outgoing Board Chair, Harry Heiman.



Thank you for your years of hard work and dedication to GHF and Georgia health care consumers.

## Spreading the health.



The next few years will see an explosion in the number of people entering the health care system.

In fact, by 2016, as many as 33 million more adults will have health insurance.<sup>1</sup> Plus, every day, thousands of baby boomers will become eligible for Medicare.<sup>2</sup>

By joining forces with Coventry Health Care, our footprint has grown, allowing us to provide coverage and access to care to more Medicare, small-business and individual customers than ever. Now we can offer affordable, quality coverage to more people in more places — including a wider network of providers, more cost-effective business models and technology that lets people take a more active role in their health.

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1. Coverage Estimates, Congressional Budget Office, 2012  
2. Baby Boomers Approach 65, Pew Social Trends 2010

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for the staff and board  
of GHF

– *Marci Thomas*

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Thanks to Georgians for a Healthy Future for leading the Cover Georgia Coalition to help close the coverage gap for all Georgians.



Harry Heiman and Abby Friedman

thank you!

A big thank you to our outgoing board members:  
Julie Edelson, Marci Thomas, Jeff Graham, Sylvia Caley and Iris Feinberg.

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Georgians for a Healthy Future would like to recognize the service of Julie Edelson, Marci Thomas, Jeff Graham, Sylvia Caley, and Iris Feinberg, all of whom left the Board of Directors at the end of 2014. We would also like to welcome four new board members: Dante McKay, Jay Berkelhamer, Monica Ponder, and Natalie Hernandez.





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