

# 2019

## HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED

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THURSDAY  
JANUARY 10, 2019  
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM  
FREIGHT DEPOT



**GEORGIANS FOR A  
HEALTHY FUTURE**

THE VOICE FOR GEORGIA HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

# GOOD MORNING!

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8:30–9:00 AM    **Registration and breakfast**

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9:00 AM    **Welcome**  
Monica Ponder, Board Chair, Georgians for a Healthy Future

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9:15 AM    **My health care story**  
Lori Murdock, Consumer  
Introduced by Alyssa Green, Outreach & Education Manager,  
Georgians for a Healthy Future

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9:30 AM    **Remarks by Georgians for a Healthy Future's Executive Director**  
Laura Colbert, Executive Director,  
Georgians for a Healthy Future

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9:40 AM    **Legislative panel**  
Featuring:  
Senator Kay Kirkpatrick    Representative Lee Hawkins  
Senator Lester Jackson    Representative Debbie Buckner  
  
Moderated by Laura Colbert, Georgians for a Healthy Future

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10:40 AM    **Introduction of keynote speaker**  
Dean Jim Curran, Rollins School of Public Health,  
Emory University

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10:45 AM    **Charting a path forward in a new landscape**  
Dr. David Blumenthal, President, The Commonwealth Fund

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11:40 AM    **Georgians for a Healthy Future's Policy Priorities**  
Michelle Conde, Communications & Special Projects Manager,  
Georgians for a Healthy Future

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11:50 AM    **Closing remarks**  
Natalie Hernandez, Chair-elect, Georgians for a Healthy Future



Join the conversation online!  
#HCU2019  
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on Twitter and Facebook

Wifi: Distinctive Capitol Caterers  
Password: foodisgood

## Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for the ninth annual Health Care Unscrambled policy breakfast. We take great pride in hosting this event and, as we convene this year, Georgia consumers and voters welcome both a new administration and legislators to the Capitol. We are pleased that long-standing partners and new stakeholders are all sharing the morning with us to look ahead at the health care issues that impact our state in 2019.

As we look ahead to an exciting and busy legislative session, we are mindful that Georgia's consumers face many challenges to their health care and coverage – challenges that the legislative body can help solve. Many remain uninsured with no routine access to preventive care and no financial protection in case of emergency. Families find themselves responsible for a larger and larger share of health care costs. Rural residents face long drives to see any health care provider. Many are grieving as Georgia has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation. Epidemics of drug overdoses and suicides undercut the potential of young people across the state. For some, social determinants of health like access to healthy foods, a quality education, reliable transportation and safe neighborhoods only exasperate these health care challenges.

These are complicated issues that will require innovative, multi-faceted, and bold solutions. Advocates, policymakers and industry stakeholders will need to work together to implement solutions that meaningfully increase access to care, address affordability, and improve health outcomes for all Georgians. Consumers and voters need approaches that will improve Georgia's health care system and public health outcomes for the long-term. As our organization heads into its second decade of consumer health advocacy, Georgians for a Healthy Future is committed to serving as a nonpartisan collaborator in hopes of realizing this goal.

This morning's program features two conversations that will address the urgent health needs of Georgians. First, we will hear from a bipartisan group of health-focused state legislators who will fill us in on what they anticipate for the 2019 Legislative Session. Dr. David Blumenthal, President of the Commonwealth Fund, will lead the second conversation where we will examine the innovations and fresh ideas needed to improve outcomes and quality of life for Georgians from all walks of life. We hope these conversations are educational and inspiring.

Thank you again for spending your morning with us.

Sincerely,



Laura Colbert, MPH, MCHES  
*Executive Director*



Monica Lindsey Ponder, MS, MSPH  
*Chairman, Board of Directors*

## HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2019 LEGISLATIVE PANEL

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**Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, MD**  
**Senate District 32**

**Twitter: @kirkpatrickdk**

Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, MD, a Republican, represents the 32nd District, which includes East Cobb and Sandy Springs. She serves as a member of the Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Science and Technology and Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committees.

Senator Kirkpatrick has been an orthopaedic hand surgeon in Atlanta for over 30 years and was previously the president of Resurgens Orthopaedics. Senator Kirkpatrick is a district coordinator for the Medical Association of Georgia's Medical Reserve Corps. and is determined to contribute to Georgia's ability to respond to disaster and emergency situations. Dr. Kirkpatrick is a consultant and lecturer on patient safety in surgery. She is also a member of the East Cobb Rotary and she serves as a team leader at the Ronald McDonald House where she participates in pet therapy through the Happy Tails Pet Therapy Program.

Senator Kirkpatrick graduated from the University of Kentucky and earned her medical degree from the University of Louisville. Her husband Tom is an emergency physician. She and Tom have two young adult children. Kay and Tom are active members of East Cobb United Methodist Church.

## HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2019 LEGISLATIVE PANEL

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**Senator Lester G. Jackson, III**  
**Senate District 2**

**Twitter: @DrLGJ3**

A family dentist from Savannah, Georgia, Dr. Lester G. Jackson, III, is providing exceptional dental services to the Savannah/Chatham County area for over two decades. Partnered with his wife, Dr. Lorna C. Jackson, The Jackson Dental Center is a cornerstone of dental services for the coastal region of the state, expanding their services in the last seven years to providing dental services for institutional healthcare through the southeast.

Dr. Jackson currently serves in the Georgia General Assembly as a three term senator, representing the 2nd district of the Georgia. Dr. Jackson was first elected to the legislature in 1998. After serving in the Georgia House of Representatives for 10 years, Dr. Jackson was elected to the State Senate, where he currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Urban Affairs Committee. Dr. Jackson was voted by his legislative peers as the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus Legislator of the Year and currently serves as he chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, the largest in the nation.

After graduating from Meharry Medical College in 1985, Dr. Jackson was commissioned as a naval officer, proudly serving seven years as a dental officer for the United State Navy. He obtained the rank of Lt. Commander in four years, and served as Detachment Commander of the Beaufort Marine Corp. Air Station Dental Clinic, in Beaufort, South Carolina. As the Detachment Commander, Dr. Jackson provided dental services to military personnel and their families.

In 1991, after serving his country with distinction, he later established the Jackson Dental Center in Savannah, Georgia. The Jackson Dental Center is a part of the Minority and Women Businesses Enterprise (MWBE). MWBE is an organization that is committed to developing mutually beneficial business relationships with minority and women owned businesses in Chatham County.

Dr. Jackson is the CEO of Coastal Health Solutions, Inc. (CHS). CHS recognizes the growing need to promote and employ dental allied health professionals who are experts in their field. Dr. Jackson and the Jackson Dental Center moved into this phase of growth with a vision for further advancement.

## HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2019 LEGISLATIVE PANEL



**Rep. Lee Hawkins**

**R-27**

**Twitter: @blhdds**

Representative Lee Hawkins was born in Gainesville, Georgia. He graduated from Gainesville High School and went on to attend Oxford College for his Associate Degree; Emory University for his Bachelor's Degree; University of Georgia for his Post-Graduate Degree; and returned to Emory University School of Dentistry earning his D.D.S. Degree. Today, he is a practicing dentist with his son Ben, in Gainesville, Georgia.

Dr. Hawkins was elected President of the Georgia Dental Association (GDA) in 2003. Later, he served as Chairman of the delegation to the American Dental Association. He has been recognized by his colleagues as an Honorable Fellow of the GDA, Northern District Dentist of the Year, selected as a Fellow of the American College of Dentist, a Fellow of the International College of Dentistry, a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, and has received the Meritorious Service Award from the Emory Dental Alumni Association.

In 2007, Hawkins was elected to the Georgia Senate where he served until 2010. In 2013, Hawkins was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he represents the 27th District which includes Hall and White counties. He currently serves the Vice Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee and as a member of the Appropriations Committee, Insurance Committee, and the Regulated Industries Committee.

Hawkins has received the following recognitions:

- Legislator of the Year Award
- Award of Excellence by the Academy of Independent Pharmacy Friends of Agriculture
- Legislative Award from the County Commissioners of Georgia
- President's Award from the Free Dental Clinics of Georgia

He and his wife Sharon have seven children: Nora, Ivory Michelle, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Meredith, Jim, and Charlie.

## HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2019 LEGISLATIVE PANEL



**Rep. Debbie Buckner**

**D-137**

**Twitter: @RepBuckner**

A native Georgian, Rep. Buckner grew up in Columbus and lived there until she married and moved to Talbot County in 1976. She was first elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 2002 serving House District 137 which is comprised of all of Talbot county, and portions of Harris, Meriwether, the eastern part of Muscogee County and Fort Benning.

Rep. Buckner serves as a member of the Ways and Means, Natural Resources & Environment, Retirement, and State Institutions & Property committees. As a freshman legislator, she was the only freshman to serve on the Natural Resources & Environment Water Subcommittee. She was the House Democratic Caucus Secretary and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Rural Caucus.

Rep. Buckner is the Former Director of Community Benefit at Columbus Regional Healthcare System, having previously worked for Doctors Hospital as the Director of Community Relations and the Columbus Health Department as Senior Public Health Educator.

She earned a BS Degree in Health Science from Columbus State University and attended Georgia Southwestern College for postgraduate work and to earn a teaching certificate.

Rep. Buckner is a Board Member of Twin Cedars, which provides programs and services to children and their families in Columbus, LaGrange and Macon, is currently serving as Board Chair of Three Rivers AHEC, a Board Member and Past Chairman of the West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, member of the Easter Seals Board and the Safe Kids of Columbus Board.

Over the last two decades, Rep. Buckner has received numerous awards from the Georgia Rural Health Association, the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Georgia Alliance for Tobacco Prevention, Georgia Environmental Council, Georgia Counservative Voters, NAACP, and more.

Representative Buckner is married to Mike Buckner, and they live at Fielder's Mill, in Talbot County, which is one of the few historic, operational, grist mills in the state of Georgia. They have three children.

## HEALTH CARE UNSCRAMBLED 2019

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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**David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P**

Twitter: @DavidBlumenthal

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David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P., is president of The Commonwealth Fund, a national philanthropy engaged in independent research on health and social policy issues.

Dr. Blumenthal is formerly the Samuel O. Thier Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Chief Health Information and Innovation Officer at Partners Healthcare System in Boston. From 2009 to 2011, he served as the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, with the charge to build an interoperable, private, and secure nationwide health information system and to support the widespread, meaningful use of health IT. He succeeded in putting in place one of the largest publicly funded infrastructure investments the nation has ever made in such a short time period, in health care or any other field.

Previously, Dr. Blumenthal was a practicing primary care physician, director of the Institute for Health Policy, and professor of medicine and health policy at Massachusetts General Hospital/Partners Healthcare System and Harvard Medical School. He is the author of more than 250 books and scholarly publications, including most recently, *Heart of Power: Health and Politics in the Oval Office*. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and serves on the editorial boards of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the *Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation*. He has also served on the staff of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research and is the founding chairman of AcademyHealth, the national organization of health services researchers.

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Dr. Blumenthal received his undergraduate, medical, and public policy degrees from Harvard University and completed his residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. With his colleagues from Harvard Medical School, he authored the seminal studies on the adoption and use of health information technology in the United States. He has held several leadership positions in medicine, government, and academia, including senior vice president at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and executive director of the Center for Health Policy and Management and lecturer on public policy at the Kennedy School of Government. He served previously on the boards of the University of Chicago Health System and Penn Medicine and is the recipient of the Distinguished Investigator Award from AcademyHealth, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Rush University and Honorary Doctors of Science from Claremont Graduate University and the State University of New York Downstate.

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## 2019 GHF Policy Priorities

- 1 Increase the number of Georgians with health insurance
- 2 Stabilize Georgia's health insurance Marketplace
- 3 Ensure access to care and financial protections for consumers purchasing private health insurance.
- 4 Set and enforce standards that provide for equitable coverage of mental health and substance use treatment services by health plans.
- 5 Prevent nicotine use and addiction by young Georgians.
- 6 Support partners in integrating health and equity in the policies across every sector to address social determinants of health that prevent equitable access to care and equitable health status.

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50 Hurt Plaza SE, Suite 806

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

404-567-5016

[info@healthyfuturega.org](mailto:info@healthyfuturega.org)

[www.healthyfuturega.org](http://www.healthyfuturega.org)