

Sandy Praeger
Kansas Commissioner of Insurance

Commissioner Sandy Praeger was elected as Kansas' 24th Commissioner of Insurance on November 2, 2002 and began serving in the position on January 13, 2003. Commissioner Praeger is responsible for regulating all insurance sold in Kansas and overseeing the nearly 1,700 insurance companies and 65,000 agents licensed to do business in the state.

Currently, she serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Also within the NAIC, she serves on the Ex-1 Committee for Internal Administration, chairs the Audit Committee, is Vice Chair of the Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee and is a member of the Life Insurance and Annuities Committee. She previously served as vice chair for the NAIC Midwestern Zone.

She was elected previously to the Kansas Senate in 1992, 1996 and 2000, and before that served one term in the Kansas House of Representatives. While in the legislature, she worked to gain passage of patient protection laws, external review of health plans and insurance, and the Kansas expansion of children's health insurance. In 2001 she led the successful campaign for mental health parity in Kansas.

AARP and Kansas Wildlife Federation all have recognized Commissioner Praeger as their "legislator of the year" for her work on issues important to their organizations.

A resident of Lawrence, Kansas, she served as mayor of Lawrence from 1986-87, and she served on the Lawrence City Commission from 1985-89.

Her community involvement includes the United Way of Douglas County Board of Directors, and she is a founding member of three local boards: Health Care Access (a clinic for the medically indigent), the Haskell Indian Nations University Foundation, and C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an organization dedicated to helping children who come under the jurisdiction of the court.

Commissioner Praeger has been a speaker before numerous national organizations including: the American Association of Health Plans; the National Conference of State Legislatures; The Forum for State Health Policy Leadership; the National Association of Chain Drug Stores; the American Academy of Pediatrics; Women in Government; and the National Association of Health Data Organizations.

In 1999 Commissioner Praeger was a recipient of the prestigious Dr. Nathan B. Davis Award which is given annually by the American Medical Association to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the public health through elected and career government service.

In March of 1998, she testified before the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, at the request of Senator James Jeffords, Chairman, on the topic of "balanced federalism" as it relates to health regulatory issues. She also appeared before the U.S.

Senate Small Business Committee in February of 2003 expressing regulators' concerns about association health plans.

In 1997, The Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved also recognized her leadership on health care access issues. She was also recognized by The Center for Populations Options for legislation she sponsored in 1994 to create teen pregnancy prevention programs in Kansas.

Commissioner Praeger is a graduate of the University of Kansas. She lives in Lawrence with her husband, Dr. Mark Praeger, where she is active in several community organizations. They have two children, Gretchen and J.D., a daughter-in-law, Sevrin, a grandson, Jakson and a granddaughter Ava Margaret.