



Dr. Gail Wilensky Elected Co-Chair of Task Force on Future of Military Health Care

January 08, 2007
No. 07-03

(703) 695-0192 (Media Inquiries)
(703)697-5737 (Public/Industry inquiries)

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Department of Defense announced today that Dr. Gail Wilensky was elected by the members of the Task Force on the Future Health Care to serve as the Non-Departmental Co-Chair. The Task Force is a 14-member panel charged with evaluating and recommending methods for ensuring the future availability and affordability of military medicine.

Dr. Wilensky, an economist and a Senior Fellow at Project HOPE (an international health education foundation), has extensive expertise in analyzing and developing policies relating to health care reform and to ongoing changes in the health care environment.

Dr. Wilensky is a Commissioner on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health and an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of The National Academies and its Governing Council. She is Vice Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission and serves as a trustee of the Combined Benefits Fund of the United Mineworkers of America, the American Heart Association and the National Opinion Research Center. Dr. Wilensky is also an advisor to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund and immediate past chair of the Board of Directors of Academy Health and is a director of several corporate boards.

From 1990 - 1992, Dr. Wilensky was Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, directing the Medicare and Medicaid programs. She also served as Deputy Assistant to President George Herbert Walker Bush for Policy Development, advising him on health and welfare issues from 1992 to 1993.

From 1997 to 2001, she chaired the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, which advises Congress on payment and other issues relating to Medicare. From 2001 to 2003, she co-chaired the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans which covered health care for both veterans and military retirees.

Elected from among the Non-Departmental members of the task force, Dr. Wilensky and Departmental Co-Chair General John Corley, USAF Vice Chief of Staff, will lead the group as it addresses a slate of objectives that includes assessment and recommendations on wellness initiatives, education programs, accurate cost accounting, universal enrollment, system governance, procurement adequacy, military and civilian personnel mix, Medicare-eligible beneficiary needs, efficient and cost effective contracts, and the beneficiary-government cost share structure to sustain military health benefits over the long term. This cost sharing structure has significant priority in that the task force must report on this element in both the interim and the final reports.

Created as prescribed by Congress in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2007, the task force includes seven members from within the department and seven experts from a variety of disciplines external to the department. Other task force members are identified below.

Task Force Members

Department of Defense Members:

Air Force Gen. John D. W. Corley, vice chief of staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Nancy Adams, former commander Tripler Army Medical Center and acting director, TRICARE Regional Office, North

Navy Rear Adm. John Mateczun, Deputy Surgeon General

Air Force Lt. Gen. James Roudebush, Surgeon General

Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Kelley, deputy director of logistics for medical readiness, the Joint Staff

Shay Assad, director of defense procurement and acquisition policy, Office of the Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

Retired Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Non Departmental Members:

Robert J. Henke, assistant secretary for management, Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Carolyn Clancy, director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services

Robert F. Hale, senior fellow at the Logistics Management Institute and member of the Defense Business Board; formerly assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and comptroller

Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Robert Smith, past president and current member of the Board of the Reserve Officers Association, and global controller, Vehicle Service & Programs, Ford Motor Co.

Larry Lewin, founder of The Lewin Group and currently executive consultant on clinical and technology effectiveness, health promotion.

Dr. Robert Galvin, director of global healthcare for General Electric.

###

 [Close Window](#)