

CHRISTINE C. FERGUSON, JD

A Professor at the George Washington University and Director of the RI Health Insurance Exchange, Christy has a unique ability to translate across sectors – public and private, state and federal, profit and not-for-profit. These skills are the result of an unusual combination of experiences as health care purchaser, regulator and provider in federal and state leadership roles in both executive and legislative branches of government. Her work includes state health policy, implementation of the ACA, health care delivery system reform, obesity and chronic disease, Medicaid, health care financing and management, child health and development, public health preparedness. She has been recognized as one of the nation's 100 most influential lawyers by the *National Law Journal*, and one of the 25 Most Influential Working Mothers by *Working Mothers Magazine*. David Broder and Haynes Johnson heralded her as a “profile in courage” in their book “The System.” A sought after speaker, she appears in key media outlets such as USA Today, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, Huffington Post, the Today Show and the Associated Press.

As Commissioner of Public health in Massachusetts, Ms. Ferguson oversaw the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health Care Finance and Policy. She led initiatives addressing public health emergencies and substance abuse; established a unique collaboration with the Executive Office of Public Safety; and implemented the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety and Medical Errors Reduction. She was also a key member of a two-year effort to establish a new department for Early Education and Child Care.

From 1995 to 2001, Ms. Ferguson ran the Rhode Island Department of Human Services under Governor Lincoln Almond's two-term administration. She oversaw nearly one-third of the State's annual budget, providing Medicaid and services for low-income families, children, senior citizens, veterans and those with disabilities. She led efforts with the Department of Administration to retool and oversee state employee health benefits. Rhode Island's innovative achievements in health care, Medicaid managed care, early education and child care and welfare reforms were widely recognized during her tenure. Of particular note, Rhode Island had the nation's highest percentage of children with health care coverage.

Prior to her service in Rhode Island, Christy served as counsel and deputy chief of staff to the late U.S. Senator John H. Chafee from 1981-1995 where she led his wide ranging policy initiatives in national health, economic and social policy. She served as lead staff for the Mainstream Senators in their 1993-1994 attempt to develop a bipartisan health reform proposal and was responsible for incorporating the concept of an “individual mandate” in that proposal.

She has served on the Board of Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI and of the Neighborhood Health Plan, a RI non-profit health insurer. She recently completed her second term as a member of the Board of Children, Youth and Families at the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. She is also a member of the IOM's Standing Committee on Family Planning. She has served on the boards the National Academy of State Health Policies and a variety of other state and national organizations.

Ms. Ferguson holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Washington College of Law, American University.