

Wendell Primus

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of the Speaker, Nancy Pelosi

Washington, DC

Senior Policy Advisor

March, 2005-Dec 2022

- Managed and advised the Speaker on legislative updates related to the health – Medicare, Medicaid, and ACA, Social Security, TANF, Unemployment Insurance, Public Debt Limit, Child Welfare and some economic policies and all Budget issues.
- Directly negotiated policy, bill text and billions in funding with relevant committees and Administration staff on the following key legislative achievements: Inflation Reduction Act, Build Back Better, American Rescue Plan, multiple Appropriations Bills, Surprise Billing, Three FDA Drug User Fee Agreements, the Families First Child Welfare Act, and numerous other health bills during that time period.
- Was the lead House Staff person responsible for H.R. 3. Organized and led Committee staff meetings, convinced the Congressional Budget Office that the bill worked. Wrote policy memos and briefed/staffed the Speaker for meetings with Members of Congress,
- Served as a liaison between the Speaker's Office and House Committees (Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Budget Committee, Joint Economic Committee and Education and Labor) as well as the Office of Legislative Counsel, Congressional Budget Office and relevant executive branch departments and agencies (HHS, SSA, Treasury, OMB, NEC and DPC).
- Advised press team on any policy material included in the Speaker's talking points, press statements as well as the Speaker's personal correspondence to individuals and advocacy groups.
- Mentored a dozen RWJ and David Winston Fellows

Joint Economic Committee

Washington, DC

Minority Staff Director

March, 2003-February 2005

- Managed a staff of 8 who wrote a variety of economic papers
- Assisted Democrats in developing questions for testimony. Selected, invited, and instructed witnesses
- Responded to requests from other Committees
- Put out a press release each month in response to the unemployment rate

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Washington, DC

Director of Income Security

July, 1997-Feb, 2003

- Prepared numerous papers on how unemployment compensation should be expanded to assist workers depending upon depth of recession state by state
- Assisted in responding to Administration proposed welfare regulations
- Testified several times before Committees on how welfare reform was working
- Did analysis of the implications of welfare reform especially on child poverty

Independent Consultant

Washington, DC

Sept 1996 – June, 1997

- Wrote several reports
- Testified before House Committee

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Visiting Professor of Law and Social Policy

Spring Semester, 1997

Health and Human Services

Washington, DC

Deputy Secretary of Human Services Policy

March, 1993 – Aug. 1996

- Chaired an interagency task force that developed the Clinton Welfare Reform proposal

- Managed a staff of 30 individuals in analyzing head start, child care, AFDC, child support and child welfare proposals.
- Testified before Committees and was the Administration spokesperson during mark-up on welfare reform
- Worked with the Urban Institute in modelling how welfare reform affected child poverty
- Resigned in protest from the Clinton Administration primarily because of projected implications on child poverty and impact upon legal immigrants

Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives

Washington, DC

Economist – then Chief Economist and then Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Human Resources

Sept, 2007-March, 1993

- Was liaison between the Chairman, the Speaker and Bob Ball during the 1983 Social Security Amendments.
- Assisted the Chairman in all negotiations with the Budget Committee Chairman in how the budget resolution and the reconciliation instructions would affect programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee.
- Was the lead House staffer in responding to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation that was attached to the public debt limit increase. Coordinated staff from the five Committees involved in the conference Committee. Helped write the language that ensured there was no flexibility given to the Administration in how the reconciliation instruction affected each program.
- With the assistance of the Congressional Budget Office, developed the table that combined spending and revenue provisions and showed how each iteration of the 1990 budget agreement affected families across the income distribution. Was the first time spending and revenues had been merged in distribution tables. Was also unique in how families of different sizes were compiled. As a result of that work, I was profiled in the NYT.
- With the assistance of CRS, Agency staff and CBO, compiled 13 editions of the Green Book – a compendium of information regarding each program within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Each program was described, how they were administered and financed, eligibility for the program, who was served, number of participants, recent legislative changes and how the program affected well-being.
- As Subcommittee staff director, developed the legislation on Family Preservation. Also during the 1990 recession, wrote several versions expanding the Unemployment Insurance Program.

Georgetown University

Assistant Professor of Economics

Washington, DC

Sept, 2004 – June, 2007

- Taught Intermediate Economics and Masters Level Econometrics

Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives

Washington, DC

Policy Staff on Food Stamp Program

- Supervised coding of quality control food stamps applications
- Did data analysis of food stamp recipients that led to the 1976 Food Stamp Reform Act

Institute on Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin

Ames, Iowa

Director of Income Data Processing

Sept., 1969 – August, 2004

- Managed staff of 35 data coders and programmers on the Rural Income Maintenance Experiment
- Assisted in the analysis of this data
- Helped write interview forms

EDUCATION

Iowa State University

PH-D Economics with a Minor in Statistics

1975

Iowa State University

Bachelor of Science

1968

AWARDS

John W. McCormack Award -- House of Representatives

December 12, 2022

James C. Corman Award for Public Service The Welfare Law Center November 19, 1998

Citation of Merit College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University 1997

AMA award

Public Hospital award

Hospital Association of California

National Foster Youth Institute June 3, 2019

MEMBERSHIPS

Founding Member of the National Academy of Social Insurance

Member of the FLORIS United Methodist Church