

# SARAH DESPRES

(b)(6)

Health policy expert with 20 years of experience leading, designing and implementing successful advocacy campaigns to improve healthcare and health outcomes through oversight, legislation, and regulation. Expertise in public health including drug and medical device regulation, infectious disease and immunization policy, and the impact of Medicare and Medicaid on public health and health outcomes. Proven ability to develop and implement strategy, motivate and lead teams, and organize diverse stakeholders to achieve meaningful policy change.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **The Pew Charitable Trusts**

#### Director, Government Relations

Nov. 2013—Present

Lead advocacy campaigns for Pew's health portfolio. Design and manage strategies to advance policies to: reduce antibiotic resistance; improve regulation of medical and consumer products; address substance abuse disorders; increase transparency in healthcare. Manage a team of staff and external consultants to achieve policy change, including passage of the Drug Quality and Safety Act, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, Over the Counter Monograph Safety and Innovation Act, and increased appropriations for public health activities; promulgation of regulations; and executive orders. Testify before Congress and regularly meet with Congressional staff, senior agency officials, and stakeholders. Advise senior Pew leadership on the institution's strategic direction.

#### Senior Officer, Government Relations

Feb. 2011—Nov. 2013

Designed and directed successful lobbying efforts resulting in enactment of legislation to strengthen drug manufacturing oversight, provide incentives for antibiotic development, and improve medical device safety. Led successful lobbying efforts for the meaningful implementation of the Physician Payments Sunshine Act.

### **House Energy and Commerce Committee**

Jan. 2009 – Jan. 2011

Counsel: Senior member of health team, responsible for public health provisions of the Affordable Care Act and the James Zadroga 9/11 World Trade Center Health and Compensation Act. Led committee oversight of HHS. Led policy development for medical product regulation, immunization, biomedical research, public health preparedness, and other public health issues.

**House Committee on Government Reform** Jan. 1998 – Jan. 2009  
Counsel: Lead staffer responsible for oversight and investigations related to immunization programs; FDA regulation of food and medical products, public health, reproductive health, integrity in science, healthcare quality, and bioterrorism preparedness.

**Senate Government Affairs Committee** May 1997 – Jan. 1998  
**Special Investigation on Campaign Funding**  
Assistant Counsel: Staffed Congressional investigation into illegal and improper activities during the 1996 federal election campaign.

**Office of the Librarian** Nov. 1991 – April 1993  
**The Library of Congress**  
Program Assistant: Organized lectures and seminars for Members of Congress and their staff about advances in neuroscience and genetics. Performed research for the Librarian of Congress's book on the 1991 coup in Russia, *Russia Transformed: Breakthrough to Hope*.

**Design USA Exhibit** July 1989 – March 1990  
**The United States Information Agency** Moscow, Leningrad, Donetsk, U.S.S.R.  
Exhibit Guide: Delivered presentations in Russian to 11,000 daily visitors about American life, including consumer product design, popular culture, youth movements, political issues, and social problems.

### EDUCATION

<b>Northeastern University School of Law</b> , Boston, MA	JD 1996
<b>Trinity College</b> , Hartford, CT	BA 1988

### AFFILIATIONS

Board member, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington	May 2012-May 2018 June 2020-Present
Member, HHS National Vaccine Advisory Committee	Feb. 2013-Feb. 2017
Co-Chair, HPV working group	
Member, AMR working group	
Board member, Vaccinate Your Family (Board Chair since Jan. 2019)	Jan. 2014-Present

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*Vaccines Aren't Partisan*, Politico Magazine, Feb. 4, 2015

*How Congress Brought the Measles Back*, Politico Magazine, June 22, 2014

*Overcoming Barriers to Low HPV Vaccine Uptake in the United States:*

*Recommendations from the National Vaccine Advisory Committee*, Public Health Reports, Jan-Feb, 2016

*A Call for Greater Consideration for the Role of Vaccines in National Strategies to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria: Recommendations from the National Vaccine Advisory Committee*, Public Health Reports, Jan-Feb, 2016

*Don't Let Vaccines Go the Way of Climate Change*, Sarah Despres and Saad Omer, Politico Magazine, Feb. 16, 2017