



Constance Garner, Policy Director

Connie Garner focuses her practice as Policy Director in the Government Strategies Practice Group, and Executive Director for Advance CLASS, Inc. Her areas of expertise include health care, disability, long term care, and education.

Before joining Foley Hoag, Connie was Policy Director, Disability and Special Populations, to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) for 17 years, where she has served Chairman Harkin, Senator Dodd, and the late Senator Kennedy. In that role, Connie was the lead Democratic Committee architect for the CLASS Act, the major long-term care legislation that is part of health care reform; enactment of the landmark Mental Health Parity Act 2008; the 2006 and 2009 reauthorizations of the \$2 billion Ryan White CARE Act; the Family Opportunity Act of 2006 and the 2005 reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Special Education Law; and the 1999 Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

Connie also served in the U.S. Department of Education, as Director of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities and the Secretary of Education's principal liaison on all interagency health care matters, including health care reform.

Prior to her work with the Federal government, Garner provided clinical nurse specialist services in both urban and rural public health settings as well as inpatient hospital settings, and managed several large maternal-child health inpatient hospital units in both Philadelphia and the Washington-DC area

Garner has a B.S. in Nursing (University of Pennsylvania, 1979) and M.S. in Nursing (George Mason University, 1982), an Ed.S in Special Education (George Washington University, 2000), and her Doctoral work is in both Health and Education Public Policy (George Washington University, 2001). She is also certified as a Pediatric and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.