

Dr. Debra Whitman

Chief Public Policy Officer at AARP

Washington, DC, US

Debra Whitman, PhD, is an economist and expert on aging issues with extensive experience in national policymaking and global research.

Biography

Debra Whitman, PhD, is an economist and expert on aging issues. As Chief Public Policy Officer for AARP, she and her teams develop global policy and research insights and solutions that help communities, lawmakers, and the private sector improve our lives as we age. Debra has extensive experience in national policymaking and domestic and international research. As an economist, she is a strategic thinker whose life's work has been devoted to solving problems and improving the systems that impact us all as we age. As staff director for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Debra worked across the aisle to increase retirement security, lower the cost of health care, protect vulnerable seniors, safeguard consumers, make the pharmaceutical industry more transparent, and improve our nation's long term care system. Before that, she worked for the Congressional Research Service as a specialist in the economics of aging. She provided members of Congress and their staff with research and advice, and authored analytical reports on the economic impacts of policies affecting older Americans. From 2001 to 2003, Debra served as a Brookings LEGIS Fellow to the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, working as a health policy adviser to Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Earlier in her career, she conducted research on savings and retirement for the Social Security Administration. Debra is a writer and public speaker, a mom, and an advocate for those whose voices need to be heard. Follow her at @policydeb.

Industry Expertise

Public Policy, Non-Profit/Charitable

Areas of Expertise

Public Policy, Active Ageing, Elder Abuse, Retirement, Human Rights, Frailty, Aging, Elder financial exploitation, Financial security, Financial Services, Age-friendly banking, Employment Policy, Family Caregiving, Global aging, Health care financing, Health Policy, Long-term care policy, Long-term services and supports, Medicaid, Medicare, Prescription drug pricing, Prevention, Policy Analysis, Retirement Security

Education

Syracuse University, Maxwell School

Ph.D. Economics

Syracuse University, Maxwell School
M.A. Economics

Gonzaga University
B.A. Economics

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