

HERB KOHL 2012 VISIONARY AWARD

Presented by Corporate Voices for Working Families and Working Mother Magazine

“Best of Congress”

- U.S. Senator Herb Kohl is recognized with the “Best of Congress” award by Corporate Voices for Working Families and Working Mother Media for his work on behalf of working families
- Senator Kohl has been honored for his work during each Congress since the award began
- “Best of Congress” 2008
- “Best of Congress” 2010
- “Best of Congress” 2012

“Visionary Award”

- In honor of Senator Kohl’s dedication to America’s working families throughout his time in Congress, Corporate Voices for Working Families and Working Mother Media honored him with a special **Visionary Award** on July 25, 2012.

2012 “Best of Congress” Award

- Nominated for accomplishments in key areas
 - Food Safety
 - Jobs and Job Training
 - Education
 - Crime Prevention
 - Health Care
 - Senior Citizens
 - Nutrition and Food Security
 - Consumer Protection

Food Safety

- In May, 2011, Sen. Kohl was honored by the Institute of Food Technologists with “The Congressional Support for Science Award” for his work to improve food safety in the United States. Kohl is the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). He has worked closely with both FDA and USDA on their efforts to keep the food supply safe. Kohl pushed the FDA to increase the number of food safety inspectors domestically and abroad, and to develop new, regional rapid response teams across the country to identify and isolate contaminated produce at its source.
- In January, 2011, Sen. Kohl introduced the Food Safety Accountability Act which increases criminal penalties on those individuals who deliberately put our food supply in jeopardy.
- As part of the FY2012 Senate Agriculture Appropriations Bill, Sen. Kohl continued this work by including almost \$2.2 billion for the FDA, which is an increase of \$50 million. Most of this increase is for food safety. FDA is the only agency or office funded by this bill at a higher level than last year.

Jobs and Job Training

- Sen. Kohl is the longtime Senate champion of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program. MEP, through its centers, provides technical assistance and business consultation to small- and medium-sized manufacturers, to help employers adopt upgraded, state-of-the-art technology, streamline internal and production processes, identify cost inefficiencies, train workers to adapt to every-changing technological environment.
- In June, 2011, Senator Kohl led a bipartisan effort to continue funding for the MEP program in the Fiscal Year 2012 CJS Appropriations bill. A total of 32 senators signed Kohl's letter to the CJS Appropriations Subcommittee supporting the MEP program.
- In November, 2011 Kohl worked to include \$128,443,000 as part of the Fiscal Year 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill.
- In 2012, Sen. Kohl introduced the Fair Military Leave Act. This legislation will compensate soldiers for miscalculated leave time following their military deployment.

Education

- Sen. Kohl is the sponsor of the Fast Track to College Act this Congress. His bill will establish a grant initiative for “dual enrollment” programs and “early college high schools” to reduce high school drop out rates and improve access to college for low-income students. These are programs in which high schools partner with a college to allow low-income students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit, including an associate’s degree –tuition free.

Crime Prevention

- On the first day of the 112th Congress, Sen. Kohl introduced the COPS Improvement Act. Kohl's bill reauthorizes the Department of Justice's community policing grant program. The bill will authorize \$500 million per year in Police Hiring Grants, which is enough to hire up to 50,000 officers for general community oriented policing as well as \$150 million per year in Community Prosecutor Grants to help local district attorneys hire community prosecutors that are trained to work in neighborhoods to prevent crime, build relationships in the community, and use the authority of the prosecutor's office to improve the quality of life in the area.
- In April, 2001, Sen. Kohl led a group of 17 Senators in an effort to include \$600 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program as part of the Senate Budget Resolution for FY2012. Kohl is a long-time proponent of the COPS program, which was created as part of the 1994 Crime Bill and helped put more than 120,000 community police officers on the beat.
- In July, 2011, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee passed S. 409, the Combating Dangerous Synthetic Stimulants Act of 2011, a bill co-sponsored by Senator Herb Kohl that will work to reclassify dangerous substances and get them off store shelves. In many states throughout the nation, individuals are able to purchase and obtain hallucinogens which are disguised as bath salts.
- As a member of the Senate Judiciary and Appropriations Committees, Sen. Kohl each year secures significant funding for juvenile crime prevention, gang and truancy prevention, alternative activities for at-risk kids (Community Learning Centers, after-school and summer programs) and District Attorneys.

Health Care

- In the 112th Congress, Sen. Kohl has sponsored legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs by ending the collusive arrangements between brand name and generic drug companies that keep lower priced drugs off the market, and sponsoring legislation to bring full disclosure to the practice of pharmaceutical, medical device and biologics manufacturers providing payments and gifts to doctors.
- As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Sen. Kohl has directed funding to nurse training programs, community health centers, dental clinics for low-income residents, health IT initiatives, Children's Hospital, nanotechnology programs, hospitals and other health providers.

Senior Citizens

- As Chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, Sen. Kohl convened a hearing on elder abuse that garnered national attention. In addition to raising awareness, Sen. Kohl offered two bills aimed at combating abuse of older Americans – the End Abuse Later in Life Act (EALLA) and the Elder Abuse Victims Act. EALLA would establish a grant program for training and services aimed at preventing elder domestic abuse, and it was included as part of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act during mark-up by the Senate Judiciary Committee this year. That bill, including the EALLA provisions, is expected to be approved by Congress and signed into law.
- This Congress, Sen. Kohl worked to resolve the unintended consequences of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) heightened scrutiny of pain medication prescribing practices in nursing homes. As a result of a new the DEA policy, vulnerable patients are sometimes left to languish in pain for hours as nursing home nurses and physicians strive to adhere to the new policy. Under the Nursing Home Resident Pain Relief Act, introduced by Sen. Kohl, physicians would be allowed to oral instruction a designee to order and administer pain-relieving controlled substances to residents whose medical conditions warrant immediate pain relief. The bill also requires written records documenting each step in the process, and provides strong criminal and civil penalties for diverting drugs or violating the recordkeeping requirements.
- During this Congress, Sen. Kohl reintroduced the Silver Alert Act, which would create a system for locating missing senior citizens modeled after the Amber Alert, and provides federal coordination and assistance to local and state law enforcement agencies.
- On January 2, 2011, Sen. Kohl's legislation promoting the preservation of senior housing facilities was signed into law. The Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act makes it easier to refinance older Section 202 developments, many of which were built in the 1960s and are in need of repair. The law allows building owners to use proceeds from refinancing to improve and rehabilitate the facilities. In addition, it protects seniors from displacement in cases of inadequate funding for government rental assistance by offering them Section 8 vouchers. The law also assists with the conversion of existing 202 facilities into assisted living or service-enriched housing.

Nutrition and Food Security

- Sen. Kohl championed funding for the WIC program as part of the FY12 Agriculture Appropriations Bill; this provides essential, supplemental nutrition to pregnant women and young children in every state across the country. The WIC program is funded at almost \$6.6 billion. According to USDA, this level will support current participation levels.
- Sen. Kohl also protected other domestic feeding programs as part of the FY2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, including the Commodity Supplemental Food Program which is a lifeline for many elderly Americans. CSFP provides a modest monthly box of grocery staples primarily to low-income elderly Americans.

Consumer Protection

- As chairman of the Senate Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee, Sen. Kohl works to ensure that consumers have competitive choices and prices for vital goods and services, including cell phones, cable service, airline travel, prescription drugs, gasoline and energy, and discounted consumer products.
- In May, 2011, Sen. Kohl held a hearing into the implications of the proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger and its effects on consumer choices and prices. He subsequently urged the Department of Justice to block the merger.
- In September, 2011, Sen. Kohl held a hearing to examine how the world's dominant Internet search engine – Google – presents its search results to consumers and treats the businesses it competes with.
- During this Congress, Sen. Kohl advanced legislation to protect consumer discounts by prohibiting manufacturers from setting minimum retail prices; legislation to increase consumer access to low-price generic drugs by preventing “pay-for-delay” settlement agreements between brand and generic drug companies; legislation to prevent monopolistic conduct by freight railroads that drive up the costs of products shipped by rail, including coal, grain, and manufactured goods; and legislation to subject nations that fix the price of oil to U.S. antitrust law.

A Record of Service to Families

- Senator Kohl is the author of the **Child Care Infrastructure Act**, a law to provide tax credits for private companies and institutions to build on- or near-site day care centers to encourage employers to meet the rapidly growing demand for child care. The bill was featured in "Working Mother" magazine.
- Senator Kohl is the author of the **Child Safety Lock Act**, a law designed to protect children from accidental shootings and gun crimes by requiring that all handguns are sold with a child safety lock.
- He is also the author of the **Gun Free School Zones Act**, a law to make it a federal crime to carry a gun within 100 feet of a schoolyard.
- The Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association recognized Senator Kohl for his advocacy on education issues with their **Friend of Children award** for 2007. "Senator Herb Kohl exemplifies powerful leadership that will stand up and be a voice of the education of all children. He is to be applauded," Cyndi Barbian, President of the Wisconsin PTA, said.