Representative Marvin L. Abney has served the residents Rhode Island since first being elected in November 2012. In May 2016, he was named chairman of the House Finance Committee. He also serves on the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the House Committee on Conduct and the Special Legislative Commission on Defense Economy Planning.

Rep. Abney is an active member of several NCSL committees and task forces including the Budgets and Revenue committee and working group, the NCSL Executive Committee and the Task Force on State and Local Taxation.

Rep. Abney is a retired Major of the United States Army after a 20-year Army career, including a stint as the company commander at NATO Headquarters in Belgium.

A Maui legislator for more than 25 years, Senator Roz Baker represents the 6th Senate District (South and West Maui) in the Hawai‘i State Legislature. She is currently the Chair of the Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee. A long-time advocate for issues that affect the quality of life for residents of Hawai‘i, Senator Baker has successfully introduced numerous measures addressing such areas as access to health care, quality public education, workplace equality, equal rights for all and the prevention of domestic violence and sex assault.

Senator Baker has been recognized for her leadership in health policy by organizations including the American Cancer Society (Hawai‘i-Pacific and nationally), Hawai‘i Primary Care Association, Healthcare Association of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i Psychological Association, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association.

Besides her work on State legislative committees, Roz has also served on several national committees including the Subcommittee on Pediatric Emergency Care of the Institute for Medicine. As a cancer survivor, Roz has been a longtime volunteer with the American Cancer Society.
NCSL 2019 Legislative Summit
Pre-Conference
Implications of Living to 100:
Preparing State Policymakers
August 5, 2019
Nashville, Tennessee

Donna Benton. Ph.D. is a research associate professor of gerontology. She is the director of the University of Southern California Family Caregiver Support Center at the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. She just finished as co-chair for the California Taskforce on Family Caregiving, which led to a report which outlines recommendations for supporting family caregivers throughout the diverse communities in California.
She has worked in the field of aging for more than 30 years. Her volunteer experience with the Gray Panthers in high school, inspired her career as an advocate for improving how we all view the natural process of aging. She is committed to promoting collaborative partnerships that enhance service delivery for families caring for older adults with long-term memory and health problems.

Marc Freedman, CEO and President of Encore.org, is one of the nation’s leading experts on the longevity revolution. He is a member of the Wall Street Journal’s “Experts” panel, a frequent commentator in the media and the author of four books.
He has been a visiting scholar at Stanford University, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and King’s College, University of London. Freedman serves on the boards and advisory councils of numerous groups, including The George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, the Stanford University Distinguished Careers Institute, the Milken Institute’s Center for the Future of Aging, and the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program.
Rodney Harrell, Ph.D., is Director of Livability Thought Leadership at AARP, leading AARP Public Policy Institute’s Livable Communities work. His research on housing preferences, neighborhood choice and community livability are integral to the world-renowned Livability Index that measures every US neighborhood. He is also a speaker, researcher and blogger on livable communities issues, leads AARP’s Future of Housing work, and is one of Next Avenue’s top Influencers in Aging. Dr Harrell graduated summa cum laude from the honors program at Howard University; earned dual master’s degrees in public affairs and urban planning from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University; and received a PhD in urban planning from the University of Maryland.

Representative John Mizuno has been in office since 2006 and currently serves as the House Health Committee Chair. Prior to serving as the Chair of the Health committee, Rep. Mizuno served as the Vice Speaker for the House of Representatives for 5 years with chairmanships with the Human Services and later Health and Human services Committees prior to his Vice Speaker position. Rep. Prior to joining the state Legislature, Representative Mizuno worked for both the Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor and Industry for the state of Hawaii and has more than 25 years of public service experience.
A third generation Wyomingite, Senator Stephan Pappas has served in the Wyoming Senate since 2015 and currently serves on the Senate Labor, Health & Social Services Committee as well as the Transportation, Highways & Military Affairs committee. Senator Pappas also brings his service and expertise to the NCLS Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs.

In addition to his legislative duties, Senator Pappas presently serves as the President of Pappas & Pappas Architects, P.C. bringing to the firm more than 38 years of extensive design and construction experience in medical, educational, military, commercial and other varied types of facilities. Sen. Pappas is also a member of the American Institute of Architects, and a LEED Accredited Professional.

Susan C. Reinhard is a senior vice president at AARP, directing its Public Policy Institute, the focal point for public policy research and analysis at the state, federal, and international levels. She also serves as the chief strategist for the Center to Champion Nursing in America, a national resource center created to ensure that America has the highly skilled nurses it needs to provide care in the future.

Susan is a nationally recognized expert in health and long-term care policy, with extensive experience in conducting, directing, and translating research into action to promote policy change.
Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel is currently in her fifth term in the Nevada Assembly and was first elected to represent District 20 in November 2012. During the 2019 legislative session, Ellen chaired the Assembly committee on Commerce and Labor, and she was vice chair of both the Taxation committee and the Ways & Means subcommittee on K-12/Higher Education/Capital Improvement Programs. In prior years, Ms. Spiegel also represented District 21 in the Nevada Assembly. Ellen has been a member of the Nevada Commission on Aging, the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs, the Health Care committee (former vice chair) and also has served on several other committees, commissions, boards and task forces.

Representative Nick Zerwas has served in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2012. He serves on the Health and Human Services Finance Committee, the Health and Human Services Policy Committee, the Public Safety Policy & Finance Committee, the Sub-Committee on Corrections, the High Education Policy & Finance Committee, and as the Chair of the Health and Human Services Licensure Sub-Committee. Born with a critical congenital heart defect and undergoing 10 open heart surgeries throughout his life, Nick understands firsthand the challenges families face as they try to navigate the ever-changing healthcare landscape.