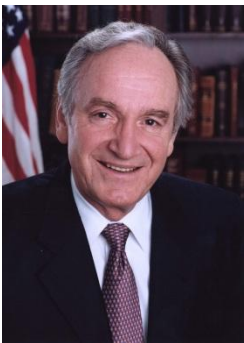




*“After a lifetime of hard work, people deserve the opportunity to live out their golden years with dignity and financial independence. But for most of the middle class, the dream of a secure retirement is slipping out of reach. We are facing a retirement crisis.” – HELP Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA)*

### **HELP Chairman Tom Harkin Introduces the USA Retirement Funds Act – Speaker Bios**

#### **U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee**



Senator Tom Harkin has represented Iowa in Congress for nearly 40 years. First winning election to the U.S. House in 1974, he represented Iowa's Fifth Congressional District for 10 years, and in 1984 challenged an incumbent Senator and won. Iowans returned him to the Senate in 1990, 1996, 2002 and 2008.

Since arriving to Congress, Harkin has championed critical legislation that improves lives. His signature legislative achievement, *The Americans with Disabilities Act*, changed the landscape of America by requiring buildings and transportation to be wheelchair accessible, and provided workplace accommodations for people with disabilities. Believing that learning starts at birth, and preparation for learning starts before birth, Senator Harkin has worked to shape education policies from K-12 to higher education. He has also fought to reform the nation's health care from a 'sick-care' system to a genuine health care system. He pioneered U.S. human rights legislation. His work to bolster the middle class continues today.

Harkin is uniquely positioned as Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. He has been a member of the Agriculture Committee since his first term in Congress and as the former Chairman of the Committee, oversaw the Senate passage and enactment into law of two farm bills.

Harkin was born in Cumming, Iowa, the son of an Iowa coal miner and a Slovenian immigrant, and still lives in the house in Cumming where he was born. He attended Dowling High School in Des Moines, Iowa State University on a Navy ROTC scholarship, and earned his law degree from Catholic University. He and his wife Ruth have two grown daughters, Amy and Jenny, and three grandchildren. For more information on Senator Tom Harkin, please visit his website at [www.harkin.senate.gov](http://www.harkin.senate.gov).

#### **Mary Kay Henry, International President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)**



Mary Kay Henry serves as International President of the Service Employees International Union. In 2010, Henry was unanimously elected and became the first woman to lead SEIU and was unanimously re-elected at SEIU's 25th International Convention in 2012.

In 2009 and 2010, Henry was included in the list of the nation's "Top 25 Women in Healthcare" by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. In 2011, Henry was called one of Washington's "Most Powerful 100 Women" by *The*

*Washingtonian* and in July 2012, she was named one of *National Journal's* "Top 25 Most Influential Women in Washington."

Under Henry's leadership, SEIU members are linking arms and forming historic partnerships in their communities to confront income inequality, to shine a light on the wealthy and corporations failing to pay their fair share and to hold politicians accountable to working people. SEIU members are committed to creating good American jobs, to winning justice for immigrant workers and to ensuring that all workers have the ability to join together in unions to create good jobs.

**Denise Bowyer, Vice President of Public Relations, American Income and National Income Life Insurance Companies (AIL and NILCO)**



Denise Bowyer is a Vice President of Public Relations for American Income Life and National Income Life Insurance Companies ( AIL and NILICO), one of the world's largest in home providers of supplemental individual life insurance to working families. She is also Secretary of the AIL/NILICO Labor Advisory Board, comprised of over 50 international labor leaders.

An American Incomer for 30 years, Denise is responsible for messaging and coordinating the companies' public policy advocacy agenda for working families. Denise has combined her lifelong passion for economic and social justice issues, her past community and union organizing experience, and her credentials as an award winning PR producer at AIL, into her current position. Her main role is "assisting CEO Roger Smith, in outing AIL/ NILICO as an outspoken critic of business as usual." In addition, she has been instrumental in helping create a thriving activist PR and agency force within the ranks of over 6000 AIL/NILICO employees and associates.

Active in coalition building with business, labor and community leaders, she is at the forefront in leading conversations that result in solutions for workplace fairness and creating an economy that works for everyone. Recently, she was elected to the Board of Directors for the American Sustainable Business Council. The Council spans a growing network of over 60 business associations across the United States, representing over 200,000 businesses and 300,000 business executives, owners, investors, and others. Their Mission is to advance the public policies that ensure a vibrant, just and sustainable economy.

A native of Omaha, Nebraska Denise currently resides in North Beach, Maryland with her spouse Amy Gifford.