

## Speaker Biographies

**Michael Linden** is the Senior Director of Tax and Budget Policy at First Focus, a bipartisan, Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organization that is committed to making children and families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions. ([www.firstfocus.net](http://www.firstfocus.net)) He has worked for and with children for many years, including two years as the director of a youth group in the Chicago area. In addition, Mr. Linden served as the Assistant Director of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for International studies, an intensive summer learning program for high school students.

After working directly with youth of all ages for many years, Mr. Linden earned his Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Goldman School at the University of California, Berkeley. While at GSPP, Mr. Linden served as a policy consultant for the West Contra Costa Unified School District and the city of Oakland Police Department. He also worked as a policy adviser on former California Governor Jerry Brown's successful campaign for State Attorney General.

**Kenneth C. Land** is the John Franklin Crowell Professor of Demographic Studies and Sociology at Duke University. ([www.soc.duke.edu](http://www.soc.duke.edu)) He received his Ph.D. in sociology and mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1969. After a year of postdoctoral study in mathematical statistics at Columbia University in New York City, he taught there and was a member of the staff of the Russell Sage Foundation for three years. He next served on the faculties of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and the University of Texas at Austin before joining the Duke Sociology Department as Chairman in 1986. He served as Chair of Sociology from January 1986 to August 1997.

His main research interests are contemporary social trends and quality-of-life measurement, social problems, demography, criminology, organizations, and mathematical and statistical models and methods for the study of social and demographic processes. He has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (1978), the Sociological Research Association (1981), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1992), the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (1997), and the American Society of Criminology (2004).

**Fasaha Traylor** is the Senior Program Officer for the Foundation for Child Development in New York City, where she works with other foundations, public officials, advocates, and researchers to design activities to advance the foundation's mission. ([www.fcd-us.org](http://www.fcd-us.org)) She also serves as President of the Board of Directors of Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF), a point of contact for grantmakers seeking collegial and collaborative relationships with other funders concerned with children, youth, and families.

# House Speaker Christopher G. Donovan



**Representative Christopher G. Donovan** is Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. He was sworn in as Speaker on January 7, 2009. Representing the 84th Assembly District of Meriden, he was first elected to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1992. Representative Donovan served as House Chair of the Labor and Public Employees Committee from 1997-2003, before being elected Majority Leader in November of 2004. He served two terms as Majority Leader.

Speaker Donovan has been a key sponsor of health care reform legislation and is currently working to increase access to affordable, quality health care by opening up the state employee health care plan to municipalities, non-profits and small businesses. He believes quality health care coverage should be available to everyone in the state. Rep. Donovan has led successful fights on campaign finance reform, stem cell research funding, and supplemental Medicare coverage, as well as expansions to the HUSKY program, minimum wage increases, school-based health clinics, school nutrition, and mass transit improvements including the push for the New Haven-Springfield commuter rail line.

Representative Donovan has been recognized for his efforts by numerous groups. He received the Child Advocacy Legislative Leadership Award, was named Humanitarian of the Year, and was NASW's Legislator of the Year. He received recognition for his support of legislation to create the Office of Multicultural Health, and Capitol Community College recognized him as an honorary member of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society.

The Connecticut State Council of Machinists presented him with their Outstanding Commitment Award. He was recognized as an important advocate for the deaf and hearing impaired, named Family Legislator of the Year, and earned an MVP award for his clean elections efforts.

Speaker Donovan is a member of the University of Connecticut School of Social Work Advisory Committee and The Collegiate Education for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons Advisory Board. He is a former member of the Connecticut Family Leave Task Force.

Speaker Donovan earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology at Villanova University and his Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, specializing in community organizing. He is an adjunct faculty member in the political science and sociology departments at the University of Hartford. As a community organizer in Meriden, CT, he focused on environmental, energy and housing issues. He also has been active on day care, family leave, and pay equity issues.

Chris, his wife Elaine Gallen Donovan, and his daughter Sarah live in Meriden. Chris and Elaine have a grown son Aaron who resides in Massachusetts.