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Biography of the Honorable Jane Harman

Jane Harman resigned from Congress February 28, 2011 to join the Woodrow Wilson Center as its first female Director, President and CEO.

During her long public career, Harman has been recognized as a national expert at the nexus of security and public policy issues. Representing the aerospace center of California during nine terms in Congress, she served six years on the Armed Services Committee, eight years on the Intelligence Committee, eight years on the Homeland Security Committee and four years on the Energy & Commerce Committee. She received the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Service in 1998, the CIA Seal Medal in 2007, the CIA Director's Award and the Director of National Intelligence Distinguished Public Service Medal in 2011.

She is a member of the Defense Policy Board, State Department Foreign Policy Board, the Director of National Intelligence's Senior Advisory Group, and the Homeland Security Advisory Committee. She was a member of the CIA External Advisory Board from 2011 to 2013.

Harman is a Trustee of the Aspen Institute and the University of Southern California

A product of Los Angeles public schools, Harman is a magna cum laude graduate of Smith College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and Harvard Law School. Prior to serving in Congress, she was a top aide in the United States Senate, Deputy Cabinet Secretary to President Jimmy Carter, Special Counsel to the Department of Defense, and in private law practice.

She has four adult children and four grandchildren.