

Nina Owcharenko is the Director for the Center for Health Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

In this position, Owcharenko (pronounced oh-CHAH-renko) researches and writes on a variety of health-care policy, including the uninsured, consumer-directed health care, and public health programs. Owcharenko has been at the center of the SCHIP reauthorization debate, calling for a more balanced solution to the health care needs of America's children and their families. She has presented before numerous national, state, and professional conferences. She has also been a guest on dozens of radio and television programs advocating her opinions and policies.

Owcharenko served for nearly a decade on Capitol Hill focusing on health-care issues. Before coming to Heritage, Owcharenko served as the legislative director for Rep. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., and Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C. She started her Hill career working for Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

Owcharenko received her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1994. Originally from Charlotte, N.C., Owcharenko now lives in Washington, D.C.