

Rachel Madley, PhD Professional Biography

Rachel Madley, PhD is the Executive Director of the Center for Health and Democracy, a nonpartisan nonprofit that educates the public on structural barriers to affordable health care and advances policy reforms to lower costs and expand access to care. She advocates for health policy improvements by integrating rigorous policy analysis, deep insurance market expertise, and lived experience as a formerly uninsured and underinsured person with Type 1 diabetes.

Dr. Madley previously served as Health Policy Advisor to Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, where she played a role in the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which authorized Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices and capped out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries. In this role, she also advised on energy and environmental policy, gun violence prevention, and Social Security.

Prior to her work in Congress, Dr. Madley served in the Office of Legislation at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, providing technical assistance on proposed legislation and working directly with Members of Congress and staff on issues related to the agency's regulatory and public health mission.

Dr. Madley received her PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from Columbia University, where her doctoral research, supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, focused on the genetic predisposition to autoimmunity. Her work identified differences in immune cell development in Type 1 diabetic immune systems using novel humanized models. During graduate school, she emerged as a national leader in Students for a National Health Program and Physicians for a National Health Program, drafting policy proposals, briefing legislators, and educating the public on the need for comprehensive health care reform.

Dr. Madley's work has been featured in national media outlets including *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Business Insider*, as well as in peer-reviewed medical journals such as the *Journal of Translational Autoimmunity*.