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Dr. Fichtner's research focuses on Social Security, federal tax policy, federal budget policy, retirement security, and policy proposals to increase saving and investment. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Alliance for Lifetime Income and the Retirement Income Institute. Fichtner is on the Board of Directors for the National Academy of Social Insurance, and a Member of the Puerto Rico Pension Reserve Trust, where he serves on both the Pension Benefits Council and the Pension Reserve Board.

Dr. Fichtner served in several positions at the Social Security Administration, including as Acting Deputy Commissioner of Social Security, Chief Economist, and Associate Commissioner for Retirement Policy. He also served as a senior economist with the Joint Economic Committee and as an economist with the Internal Revenue Service.

Dr. Fichtner earned his BA from the University of Michigan, his MPP from Georgetown University, and his PhD from Virginia Tech.