

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)



Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers is serving her eighth term representing the 5th District of Washington. She is a senior member and leading Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the most senior Republican woman in Washington state.

Cathy served as Chair of the House Republican Conference from 2012 to 2018. Cathy was the 200th woman ever elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and the only woman to give birth three times while in office.

HEALTHCARE

In 2010, Cathy was appointed to the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee – where almost half of all legislation pertaining to the economy must pass. She currently serves on the Health Subcommittee, where she plays an active role in advancing affordable, patient-centered health care reforms. As co-chair of the Rural Health Caucus, she advocates for better access to affordable and quality health care services in our rural communities, and in early 2018, her legislation to extend and expand the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program was signed into law, which will help meet the doctor shortage in rural and underserved areas.

In 2015, Cathy's *Steve Gleason Act* was signed into law to provide a temporary fix to a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policy that limited access to speech-generating devices for people with ALS, like Spokane-native Steve Gleason, and other degenerative diseases. In 2018, Cathy's *Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act* was signed into law to make that fix permanent.

She is a longtime supporter of increased resources at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and has repeatedly voted for increases in funding to help combat the opioid epidemic in Eastern Washington and across the country.

As a co-sponsor, vocal advocate and co-author of the *21st Century Cures Act*, Cathy played a key role in getting the bill passed in the House and signed into law. The legislation funds the discovery, development, and delivery of life-saving cures, and includes provisions that specifically benefit the people of Eastern Washington, such as funding for better rural health programs and support for Washington State University's research on bacteria resistance to antibiotics. The bill was signed into law by President Obama in December 2016.