

Biography of
THE HONORABLE CECILE BLEDSOE
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



**CHAIRMAN – SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND
LABOR COMMITTEE**
SENATE DISTRICT 3

Senator Cecile Bledsoe represents Senate District 3, which is comprised of a portion of Benton County. She is serving her second term in the Arkansas Senate. Currently in the 89th General Assembly, she serves as chairman of Senate Health, Welfare and Labor Committee and vice chairman of Senate Efficiency. She holds membership on Senate Insurance & Commerce Committee, Joint Budget Committee (JBC), Legislative Joint Auditing, JBC-Personnel, Legislative Joint Auditing-Educational Institutions, Community Services Oversight & Planning Council and Legislative Joint Auditing-Medicaid Subcommittee.

During the 88th General Assembly, she served as vice chairman of Joint Performance Review (JPR) and on the following committees: Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Insurance and Commerce; Senate Efficiency; Joint Budget Committee; Arkansas Legislative Council; and Legislative Joint Audit.

During the 87th General Assembly, Bledsoe was vice chairman of the Senate Substance Abuse Treatment Services Subcommittee and vice chairman of Legislative Joint Auditing–State Agencies Committee. She held membership on several committees: Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate City, County and Local Affairs; Joint Performance Review; Legislative Joint Auditing; Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC); ALC–Administrative Rules and Regulations; and the JPR–Property Assessments Subcommittee.

Nationally, Senator Bledsoe is active with several key organizations. She holds membership on the Health and Human Services Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the Human Services and Public Safety Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and the Health Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

In 1998, Senator Bledsoe was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives and served three consecutive terms. As a State Representative, she served on the House Judiciary, Education, Health and Welfare, Insurance and Commerce, State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, Joint Budget, and Joint Performance Review committees. Throughout her tenure as State Representative, she co-sponsored tort reform and passed legislation making safe retractable needles available to health care workers. Other key legislation covered issues on adoption, water resources, body piercing, medical savings accounts, medical student loan programs and perpetrators of sex crimes. She also helped secure grants and appropriations for several fire departments, city and community organizations, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and the Fayetteville Veterans Home.

She received several accolades during the 87th General Assembly; the Arkansas Medical Society selected Senator Bledsoe for their "Legislator of the Year Award" and she was recognized as a "Distinguished Legislator" by the Arkansas Municipal League. In 2012, she was recognized as a Friend Of Freedom by the Advance Arkansas Institute based on her voting records during the 88th General Assembly.

Civically, Senator Bledsoe has served on the board of Miller Place and the board of directors for the Northwest Arkansas Agency on Aging, and is a former board member of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation and Our Farm, Inc. She is a member of the Benton County Republican Committee and the Benton County Republican Women.

Former vice president and assistant office manager of the Surgical Clinic, Senator Bledsoe is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She has resided in Rogers more than three decades and is married to Dr. Jim Bledsoe, her husband of more than forty years. They have three adult children and eight grandchildren. They are founding members of Grace Point Church.