
Donna M. Christensen, MD

Member of Congress, 1997 - 2015, U.S. Virgin Islands

My commitment and passion has always been working towards the elimination of health disparities and achieving health equity. This will continue unabated through the public, private or not-for-profit sectors as I leave Congress. My special interests are the concerns of people of color in the U.S. and elsewhere; with special interest in those in the Territories, the Caribbean and of course anything of concern to the Virgin Islands.

CURRENT ENTERPRISES:

Donna Christensen, MD, LLC, President 2015-2017

Christensen Institute for Community Health & Empowerment, President

WORK EXPERIENCE

Non-Government Work Experience

Consultant, Gilead Science 2015 - 2018

Consultant. Emerging Technologies Consortium 2016 - present

Deputy Director National Health Information

Technology Collaborative for the Underserved, 2017-2018

Private Practice - Family Medicine 1975 – 1996

Elected/Appointed Work Experience

Delegate to Congress – 1997 through 2014

Chair, CBC Health Braintrust 1999 through 2014

Assistant Minority Whip - 2011-2014

Assistant Majority Whip – 2009-2010

Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, – 2009- 2014

Bi-partisan Federal Spectrum Working group

Subcommittee on Health – 2009- 2010, 2013-2014

Subcommittee on Energy and Power -- 2013-2014

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade -- 2013-2014

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet – 2009-12

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations – 2009-12

Member, Committee on Natural Resources – 1997 - 2010

Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife

Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands

Chair, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs – 2008 – 2010

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Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Subcommittee on Water and Power

Member, Committee on Homeland Security – 2002 - 2008

Select Committee on Homeland Security 2002-2003
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response
Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection &
Security Technologies

Member, Committee on Small Business – 1998 – 2004

Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight and Regulation
Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce

Caucuses and Coalitions

First Vice-Chair, Congressional Black Caucus
Chair, CBC Health Braintrust 1999-2014
Member, Congressional Caucus Women's Issues
Member, Progressive Caucus
Member, Travel and Tourism Caucus
Member, Rural Caucus
Member, Friends of the Caribbean Caucus
Member, Coastal Caucus
Member, Fire Caucus
Member, National Guard and Reserve Caucus
Member, Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition
Member, Bicameral Climate Change Task Force

POSITIONS /OFFICES HELD IN VIRGIN ISLANDS

Health Administrator/Physician – 1974 through 1996

Community Health Physician VI Dept. of Health 1995 - 1996
Acting Commissioner of Health 1994 – 1995
Territorial Assistant Commissioner of Health 1988-1994
Medical Director, St. Croix Hospital 1987—1988
Director, Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning 1985 – 1987
Director, Frederiksted Health Center 1980 – 1985
Medical Director, Ingerborg Nesbitt Clinic F'sted, St. Croix 1976 – 1978
Staff Physician, Maternal & Child Health 1975 – 1976
Emergency Room Physician 1974 -- 1975

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OTHER ELECTED/APPOINTED POSITIONS

Democratic National Committeewoman	1984 – 1994 & term 2018-2022
Member, U.S.V.I. Political Status Commission	1988 – 1992
U.S.V.I. Board of Education	1984 – 1986
U.S.V.I. Democratic Territorial Committee	1980 – present
Vice Chair U.S.V.I. Democratic Territorial Committee	1980 – 1982
Delegate, Democratic Conventions	1984, 88, 92, 96, 00,04,08, 2012, 2016
Democratic Party Convention Platform Committee	1988, 1992, 00, 04,08, 2012, Rules Committee. 2016
State Chair, Democratic Party of the VI.	2017-2018

EDUCATION

St. Mary's College
Norte Dame, Indiana
Bachelor of Science 1966

George Washington University School of Medicine
Washington, DC
Doctor of Medicine 1970

Pacific Medical Center
San Francisco, California – Internship 1970-1971

Howard University Medical Center (Freedmen's Hospital)
Washington, D.C.
Family Practice Residency – 1973-74

AWARDS (numerous awards – this is a sampling)

Honorary Doctor of Law, University of the Virgin Islands - 2012
Honorary Doctor of Laws – Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 2001
Distinguished Alumni Award – George Washington University 1999
Honorary Doctor of Science, St. George's University, Grenada 2003

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Leadership Award – Caribbean HIV/AIDS Conference in the Bahamas for Role in Extending PEPFAR Funds to Caribbean 2011

Donna M. Christensen Annual Lecture – University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Exploratory Research Center Health Disparities Lecture, began in 2011

Arc of History Award – Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies 2011

Outstanding U.S. Representative Award – American Medical Association 2010
Dr. Nathan Davis Award

Sponsor, US Coast Guard Cutter Reef Shark 2009

Distinguished Leadership Award – National Bar Association 2009

Outstanding Political Leadership – Institute of Caribbean Studies – 2004

National Institute of Health, National Library of Medicine, Changing Face of Medicine, Celebrating Women Physicians -2003

Legacy of Leadership Award – Board of Women’s College Coalition 2002

The John Lewis Lifetime Award, NMQF and CBC Heath Braintrust. 2023

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

President, Christensen Institute for Community Health & Empowerment, Inc

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Board - several terms ending in 2016

Member, EPSCOR Advisory Board, University of the Virgin Islands , 2012-2015

Africa Healthcare Infrastructure Committee, Constituency For Africa - 2016 - 2019

Member, Black AIDS Institute Board 2016 - 2023

Member, TIICANN (ADAP Advocacy) Board, 2012 - present

Member, Consumers for Quality Care Board, 2017 - present

Trustee on the American Kidney Fund, 2019- present

Chair, Scientific, Academic, Medical Advisory for Institute for Gene Therapies, current

Board Member, Frederiksted Health Care, Inc - current

Board member, VI Architectural Center 2022 - present

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Health-related

National Medical Association, Trustee	1995 – 1998
Chairman, Region 1	1990 – 1994
Member House of Delegates	1988 – 1998
Member, Judicial Council	1994 – 1998

Virgin Islands Medical Society,	
Secretary	1978
President	1980, 1991

Virgin Islands Medical Institute (PRO), Founding Member
Vice President- until 2012,
Current Boards:

Regional

Caribbean Studies Association	Life Member
Caribbean Youth Organization	Founding Member & Trustee

Local

Co-host, TV Interview Program, "Straight Up"	1993
Member, Substance Abuse Coalition	1991 – 1996
Member, Board of Directors, St. Dunstan's Episcopal School	
Secretary	1991 – 1993
Medical Consultant, U.S.V.I. Youth Correctional Facility	1990 – 1994
CO-Chair Martin Luther King Day Committee	1988 – 1990
Member, Board of Directors, Caribbean Dance Company	1979 – 1985
Chairman	1979 – 1981
President, St. Croix Central High School PTA	1980 – 1984
Member, Women's Coalition of St. Croix	
Member, St. Croix Environmental Association	
Special Friend, Queen Louise Home for Children	

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Religious affiliation:

Member, Faith Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province

Delegate to Conference	1992, 1994
Youth Advisor	1987 – 1990
Christian education Committee Chair	1988 – 1991, 1995
Member, U.S.V.I. Conference Executive Committee.	1989 – 1991
Delegate to Synod, Eastern West Indies Province	1989 and 1996
Committee to Create the Caribbean Moravian College	2016 - present

Personal:

Mother of 2 daughters, grandmother of 4.

Resides in St. Croix, USVI
