



Deutscher Bundestag

The Committee on Health

Gesundheitsausschuss
Informationen in englischer Sprache



New
2023
version
20th electoral term



“Health depends to a significant degree on our living conditions, and so forward-looking policies are essential. People who fall ill must receive personalised health care. An interdisciplinary approach and digitalisation in the health system boost the chances of this. In this context, optimal use must be made of the solidarity-based funding within the system of statutory health and long-term care insurance. On this basis, the 42 members of the Committee on Health discuss issues such as measures to address the coronavirus pandemic, dignity in long-term care, and appropriate therapeutic care, with the aim of securing the future viability of our health system.”



Dr Kirsten Kappert-Gonther,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Acting Chairwoman of
the Committee on Health

The German Bundestag's decisions are prepared by its committees, which are established at the start of each electoral term. Four of them are stipulated by the Basic Law, the German constitution: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Defence Committee, the Committee on European Union Affairs and the Petitions Committee.

The Budget Committee and the Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and the Rules of Procedure are also required by law. The spheres of responsibility of the committees essentially reflect the Federal Government's distribution of ministerial portfolios. This enables Parliament to scrutinise the government's work effectively.

The committees of the German Bundestag

The German Bundestag sets political priorities of its own by establishing additional committees for specific subjects, such as sport, cultural affairs, human rights or tourism. In addition, special bodies such as parliamentary advisory councils, committees of inquiry or study commissions can also be established. The committees are composed of members of all the parliamentary groups, reflecting the balance of these groups in the German Bundestag. The distribution of the chairs and deputy chairs among the parliamentary groups also reflects their relative strengths in the plenary. In the current electoral term, the committees have between 19 and 49 members.

The committees discuss and deliberate on items referred to them by the plenary. They also have the right to take up issues on their own initiative, allowing them to set priorities in the parliamentary debate. When necessary, they draw on external expertise – usually by holding public hearings. At the end of a committee's deliberations – especially on bills and motions for which it is the lead committee – it adopts a recommendation for a decision and a report, which serve as the basis for the plenary's decision.

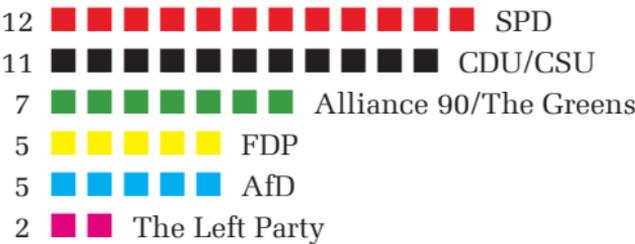
Health is a major policy field which touches on many areas of our society and economy. The health sector accounts for more than 12 per cent of gross domestic product; roughly one in six jobs in Germany are part of the health sector; and around 90 per cent of the German population is insured under the statutory health insurance scheme.

The Committee on Health

The range of interests with which health policy has to deal is correspondingly diverse. Patients want to receive high-quality medical care, long-term care should enable people to live an independent life, insured people want the contributions they pay to be affordable, and health professionals want to have a fair income and good working conditions. Health policy needs to strike a balance between these different concerns.

The members of the Committee on Health aim to guarantee high-quality medical care while ensuring that the solidarity-based funding within the statutory health and long-term care insurance system is used carefully.

As a result, there is a constant need for political action and regulation. In recent decades, the Committee has discussed at least one major reform of the statutory health and long-term care insurance schemes in almost every electoral term. They are both key topics in the Committee's work. Then there are ethical issues such as triage, updates to the content covered in training for the assistant medical professions, or the emergency services, to give just a few examples. In the spring of 2020, the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the associated challenges and pressures faced by the health system gave rise to a new priority in the Committee's work.



Number of members: 42

Chairperson: Not yet elected, AfD

Acting Chairwoman: Dr Kirsten Kappert-Gonther, Alliance 90/The Greens

The 42 Committee members therefore have a very high-volume, fast-moving workload. Their consideration of bills and motions also requires a wealth of detailed knowledge. To ensure they can take informed decisions and obtain a full and independent picture of the subject under discussion, the Committee members regularly request briefings from the Ministry of Health and other federal ministries. They also invite recognised experts from academia or the health sector to consultations and public hearings. The experts are

selected by the parliamentary groups in line with their relative strengths in the plenary. This is to ensure that the majorities in Parliament are reflected at public hearings. The time available for questions is allocated to the individual parliamentary groups in accordance with the same principle. The length of a hearing depends on the complexity of the item under discussion. Sometimes an hour and a half is sufficient; on occasion, however, discussions can span several days. The number of experts invited also varies, due to the large number of stakeholders. The information obtained at public hearings, together with the



written statements submitted by experts, is fed into the Committee's deliberations. The conclusion of the Committee's deliberations on a bill or motion takes the form of a recommendation for a decision to the plenary and a report on the course of the Committee's deliberations. On this basis, the plenary then takes a majority decision on the item in question.

Human health is of great importance in sustainable development. The impacts of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, extend far beyond national borders; antibiotic resistance or environmental factors not only affect people's health, but also have implications for the social and economic situation in the countries concerned. In light of this development and to facilitate cross-cutting cooperation between the parliamentary bodies dealing with these issues, a Subcommittee on Global Health has once again been set up in this electoral term as a joint subcommittee of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development.



Infection control, digitalisation, health insurance funding – the Committee’s work in practice

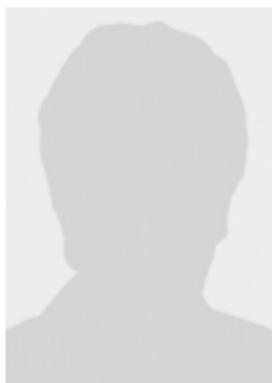
The Committee’s right to take up issues on its own initiative leads to it placing other relevant subjects on its agenda. For example, it can call on the Federal Government to provide briefings on its health-policy initiatives, within the framework of parliamentary scrutiny of the government’s work. The briefings might focus on the state of play of plans to reform health insurance funding, on the implementation of statutory requirements relating to digitalisation, or on the pandemic and the evaluation of what impacts the relevant regula-

tions in the Protection against Infection Act are having. The Committee also regularly welcomes the Federal Minister of Health to its meetings to explain his health-policy plans or his Ministry’s budget. When information is needed about cross-cutting issues, such as medical research, the relevant federal ministries are also asked to brief the Committee. Another important aspect of the Committee’s work is international dialogue with politicians from other countries who specialise in health policy.





Chairperson
yet to be elected,*
AfD
Chairperson



Dr Kirsten Kappert-
Gonther,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Acting Chairwoman
Doctor,
b. 3 Nov. 1966
in Marburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Committee members

The 42 members of the Committee on Health

* The necessary majority in the Committee to elect a chairperson has not yet been reached.

Heike Baehrens,
SPD
Parliamentary-group
coordinator and
policy spokeswoman
Bank clerk, specialist
in religious education,
b. 21 Sep. 1955
in Bevern.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dr Georg Kippels,
CDU/CSU
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Lawyer,
b. 21 Sep. 1959
in Bedburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Saskia Weishaupt,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Political scientist,
b. 20 Sep. 1993
in Hanover.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Nicole Westig,
FDP
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Fundraiser,
b. 13 Nov. 1967
in Menden.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Kay-Uwe Ziegler,
AfD
Parliamentary-group
coordinator
Executive,
b. 27 Oct. 1963
in Lutherstadt Eisleben.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Kathrin Vogler,
The Left Party
Parliamentary-group
coordinator and
policy spokeswoman
NGO executive,
b. 29 Sep. 1963
in Munich.
Bundestag Member
since 2009



Nezahat Baradari,
SPD
Paediatrician,
b. 15 Aug. 1965
in Ankara (Turkey).
Bundestag Member
since 2019



Heike Engelhardt,
SPD
Journalist,
b. 5 June 1961
in Stuttgart.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Dirk Heidenblut,
SPD
Executive,
b. 21 Apr. 1961
in Essen.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dirk-Ulrich Mende,
SPD
Fully qualified lawyer,
managing director,
b. 26 Dec. 1957
in Münster.
Bundestag Member
since 2023



Matthias David Mieves,
SPD
Business administrator,
b. 30 Dec. 1985
in Zweibrücken.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Claudia Moll,
SPD
Qualified carer
for the elderly,
b. 15 Dec. 1968
in Eschweiler.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Bettina Müller,
SPD
Nurse, lawyer,
b. 7 June 1959
in Alzenau-Wasserlos.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dr Christos Pantazis,
SPD
Doctor,
b. 9 Oct. 1975
in Hanover.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Tina Rudolph,
SPD
Doctor,
b. 21 May 1991
in Wolgast.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Martina Stamm-Fibich,
SPD
Marketing and
communication
manager,
works council member,
b. 23 Apr. 1965
in Erlangen.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dr Herbert Wollmann,
SPD
Doctor,
b. 14 Jan. 1951
in Berlin.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Simone Borchardt,
CDU/CSU
Care division manager,
b. 11 Sep. 1967
in Schkeuditz.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Hubert Hüppe,
CDU/CSU
Public administration
specialist,
b. 3 Nov. 1956
in Lünen.
Bundestag Member
from 1991 to 2009,
2012 to 2017, and
since 2021



Erich Irlstorfer,
CDU/CSU
Commercial employee,
b. 27 May 1970
in Freising.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dietrich Monstadt,
CDU/CSU
Lawyer,
b. 15 Sep. 1957
in Bochum.
Bundestag Member
since 2009



Axel Müller,
CDU/CSU
Former presiding
Regional Court judge,
b. 24 July 1963 in
Esslingen.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Stephan Pilsinger,
CDU/CSU
Doctor,
b. 17 Feb. 1987
in Munich.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Erwin Rüdell,
CDU/CSU
Business administrator,
b. 21 Dec. 1955
in Bonn.
Bundestag Member
since 2009



Tino Sorge,
CDU/CSU
CDU/CSU policy
spokesman
Lawyer,
b. 4 Mar. 1975
in Ilmenau.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Diana Iris Stöcker,
CDU/CSU
Former mayor,
b. 19 May 1970
in Karlsruhe.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Emmi Zeulner,
CDU/CSU
Registered nurse,
b. 27 Mar. 1987
in Lichtenfels.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Dr Janosch Dahmen,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Alliance 90/The Greens
policy spokesman
Doctor, chief medical
officer,
b. 6 Sep. 1981 in Berlin.
Bundestag Member
since 2020



Professor Armin Grau,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Doctor,
b. 18 Mar. 1959
in Stuttgart.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Linda Heitmann,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Manager in the
addiction support
system,
b. 2 Aug. 1982
in Hamburg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Kordula Schulz-Asche,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Nurse, communications
specialist,
b. 31 Dec. 1956
in Berlin.
Bundestag Member
since 2013



Johannes Wagner,
Alliance 90/The Greens
Doctor undergoing
specialised paediatrics
training,
b. 1 Aug. 1991
in Nuremberg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Christine
Aschenberg-Dugnus,
FDP
Lawyer,
b. 22 Sep. 1959
in Eppstein, Taunus.
Bundestag Member
from 2009 to 2013 and
since 2017



Lars Lindemann,
FDP
Lawyer,
b. 9 May 1971 in
Herzberg (Elster).
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Kristine Lütke,
FDP
Entrepreneur in the
care sector,
b. 29 June 1982
in Nuremberg.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Professor
Andrew Ullmann,
FDP,
FDP policy spokesman
University professor,
internal medicine
specialist, b. 2 Jan. 1963
in Los Angeles (USA).
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Dr Christina Baum,
AfD
Dentist,
b. 21 Mar. 1956
in Kleingrabe.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Thomas Dietz,
AfD
Employee,
b. 12 Mar. 1967
in Karl-Marx-Stadt
(now Chemnitz).
Bundestag Member
since 2021



Jörg Schneider,
AfD
Industrial engineer,
b. 14 May 1964
in Solingen.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Martin Sichert,
AfD
AfD policy spokesman
Business administrator,
b. 10 June 1980
in Nuremberg.
Bundestag Member
since 2017



Ates Gürpınar,
The Left Party
Media studies
specialist,
b. 25 Sep. 1984
in Darmstadt.
Bundestag Member
since 2021



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The Committee on Health

www.bundestag.de/en/committees/a14



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Contact details for the Committee Secretariat

Deutscher Bundestag
Ausschuss für Gesundheit
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 227-32407
Fax: +49 30 227-36724
Email: gesundheitsausschuss@bundestag.de

Herausgeber: Deutscher Bundestag, Referat Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
Platz der Republik 1, 11011 Berlin
Koordination: Dr. Elisabeth Heegewaldt, Elmar Ostermann

Published by: German Bundestag, Public Relations Division
Coordination: Dr Elisabeth Heegewaldt, Elmar Ostermann
Texts: Georgia Rauer; revised by: Parliament and Members Directorate (p. 4–5);
Secretariat of the Committee on Health (p. 6–21)

Edited by: Dr Christian Jerger

Translated by: Language Service of the German Bundestag, in cooperation with
Emma Hardie

Design: Marc Mendelson, revised by Nolte Kommunikation

Graphic: p. 7 Marc Mendelson, revised by Nolte Kommunikation

Bundestag eagle: Created by Professor Ludwig Gies, revised in 2008 by büro
uebele

Photos: Public Relations Division picture desk: Sylvia Bohn, Julia Jesse

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Bundestagsfraktion/Stefan Kaminski (Wagner); Laurence Chaperon
(Aschenberg-Dugnus); Lars F. Lindemann/Harry Schnitger (Lindemann);
Kristine Lütke/Heidrun Hönninger (Lütke); Andrew Ulmann/Brian Rauschert
(Ullmann); p. 19 Dr Christina Baum/Foto Besserer Lauda-Königshofen
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Büro Martin Sichert (Sichert); Ates Gürpınar/Maresa Jung (Gürpınar)

As at: June 2023

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The German Bundestag takes decisions on what are at times highly complex and controversial bills and parliamentary initiatives relating to the entire spectrum of policy fields. The committees play a central role in parliamentary deliberations. They are the forum where the Members thrash out compromises and draw on expert advice before submitting their reports and recommendations for decisions to be voted on by the Bundestag as a whole.

www.bundestag.de/en/committees



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