

# Dawn O'Connell

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## SUMMARY:

Strategic and effective leader with experience solving complex problems and managing people, projects and processes--including high profile global health and humanitarian responses--across a large organization.

## EXPERIENCE:

### BIDEN-HARRIS TRANSITION

WASHINGTON, DC

Health Cluster Lead, Cabinet Nominations Team

September 2020-Present

Led the work on the Department of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs Department Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet level nominations for the Biden-Harris Transition. Contributed to building out the senior-level team leading the COVID-response. Served as COVID policy liaison for the Confirmations Team Health Pod.

### CEPI: COALITION FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS INNOVATIONS WASHINGTON, DC

Director, CEPI US

June 2017-Present

Head of CEPI's US Office. Responsible for all US government relations, including on the Hill and in the Administration. Executive Director for CEPI's Joint Coordination Group—a roundtable of outside partners with a vested interest in the success of CEPI's vaccines. Successfully coordinated \$1.3 billion in resource mobilization for CEPI's COVID-19 vaccine work.

### US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, DC

Senior Counselor to the Secretary

June 2016-January 2017

Top advisor to the Secretary on global health, emerging threats and humanitarian crises. Leads the Department's Zika response effort and manages the Department's work to shelter unaccompanied children and expand the country's refugee program. Directly oversees the work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of Global Affairs, the Administration on Children and Families, and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Response.

Deputy Chief of Staff

January 2011-June 2016

Managed policy and operational challenges across HHS' large and complex \$1 trillion organization and 79,000 employees. Coordinated the Department's international and domestic response to Ebola and helped stand up and implement the Global Health Security Agenda. Helped manage and lead the 170 political staff, providing advice and guidance.

## US CONGRESSMAN JOHN SPRATT

WASHINGTON, DC

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Chief of Staff

March 2007-January 2011

Managed all office operations and staff in the Washington office and the 3 district offices. Briefed the Congressman on all legislative, administrative, and internal issues relevant to his representation. Retained Legislative Director duties.

Legislative Director

January 2004-March 2007

Tracked legislative issues relevant to the Congressman. In particular: trade, healthcare, taxes, and budget. Managed the legislative staff. Developed a new internal system for handling the thousands of constituent letters received by the Congressman each year.

Legislative Counsel

September 1997-January 2004

Handled all aspects of healthcare, trade, taxes, budget, and environmental issues. Researched and drafted legislation. Participated in policy negotiations. Monitored House floor. Met and corresponded with constituents. Attended and drafted testimony for hearings.

### EDUCATION:

## TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

NEW ORLEANS, LA

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Juris Doctor, cum laude, May 1997

Honors: Tulane Inn of Court

Tulane Environmental Law Journal, Notes and Comments Editor

## VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

NASHVILLE, TN

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Bachelor of Arts with Honors in English, cum laude, May 1994

Honors: Dean's List

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MEMBER: NEW YORK BAR & DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR

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