

# MS. KEVIN WHEELER



## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- 20+ years of experience in the U.S. Senate, mostly as a senior policy advisor for small business, innovation, research and development
- Worked for seven U.S. Senators: Ben Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Maria Cantwell, Mary Landrieu, John Kerry, Bob Krueger and Lloyd Bentsen
- Key role in managing and leading small business rescue legislation for COVID-19, the 2008 Financial Collapse, and the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks
- Expertise in the legislative process, including budget, appropriations and authorizing committees
- Extensive experience drafting bipartisan legislation, negotiating bills, developing strategies to enact legislation and increase appropriations
- Focused on making small business programs more diverse
- Adept at building legislative and advocate coalitions and working constructively across the aisle
- Excellent track record of identifying talented staff to hire
- Experience managing up to 20, staff or contractors, meeting all legislative goals or new product development

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Washington, DC

<i>Deputy Democratic Staff Director</i> for Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)	<b>FEB 6, 2018 – PRESENT</b>
<i>Deputy Democratic Staff Director</i> for Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	<b>APR 14, 2015 – FEB 6, 2018</b>
<i>Deputy Democratic Staff Director</i> for Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)	<b>JAN 3, 2015 – APR 14, 2015</b>
<i>Deputy Democratic Staff Director</i> for Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	<b>FEB 12, 2014 – JAN 3, 2015</b>

Serve(d) as senior policy advisor to develop legislation that fosters the startup and growth of small businesses, mostly through programs at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Major responsibilities include(d):

- COVID-19 recovery, including the Paycheck Protection Program and Debt Relief Program.
- SBA's core finance programs that support more than \$30 billion annually in long-term loans and investment capital to small businesses.
- The federal government's largest small business research and development programs - Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs - which provide small, high-technology firms with more than \$3 billion annually in non-dilutive capital to develop innovations for 11 agencies, from the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health to the Department of Agriculture and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- Providing advice on Committee rules, bill negotiations, staff transitions, and legislative history based on institutional knowledge and organizational memory of what has been effective or ineffective.
- Developing policies, and drafting and negotiating legislation.
- Leading and overseeing staff during the development of research projects and reports for the Committee.

### Accomplishments

- Played a key leadership role in drafting and negotiating nearly \$1 trillion in small business COVID-19 rescue and recovery legislation, on behalf of Ranking Member Cardin. Legislation included the Paycheck Protection

Program-related bills and amendments, such as the first bill to provide for a second round of PPP funding (S. 4014), the “HEROES Small Business Lifeline Act” (S.4818), and the “Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act” (H.R. 133). Partnered with Senator Coons’ staff on developing the Debt Relief program, with Senator Duckworth’s staff on the Microloan Improvements, and with Chairwoman Velazquez’s staff on the ARRA-like enhancements to SBA’s core lending programs.

- Developed and negotiated the *Closing the Credit Gap Act* in order to increase the participation of women, minorities and veterans in SBA’s largest small business loan program, and built a coalition of 45 supporters, including the American Legion and the Association for Enterprise Opportunity, on behalf of Ranking Member Cardin.
- Drafted the legislation and led the effort for Congress to act early to reauthorize the federal government’s largest research and development programs for small businesses on behalf of Ranking Member Shaheen.
- Collaborated with colleagues and Women Impacting Public Policy on a three-month project to research the status of access to capital for women-owned small businesses. Helped develop a detailed report and comprehensive set of initiatives to help women-owned businesses on behalf of Ranking Member Cantwell.
- Collaborated with Ranking Member Risch’s staff in FY2014, on behalf of Chairwoman Cantwell, to prevent SBA’s largest loan guaranty program from shutting down (lead a similar effort for FY2015 with Senator Risch’s staff on behalf of Ranking Member Shaheen).
- Blocked Committee passage/reporting of a controversial resolution designed to circumvent the Committee of Jurisdiction, the Committee on Environmental and Public Works, and undermine the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s rule on the Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.
- Led effort to increase the program level for single fund Small Business Investment Companies, and developed a pilot program at the Department of Defense to accelerate SBIR and STTR awards on behalf of Senator Cardin.

**Deputy Democratic Staff Director** for Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA)

**JAN 2, 2009 – FEB 12, 2014**

- Served as second-in-command and as one of the Committee’s senior policy and political advisors.
- Collaborated with the staff director on negotiations for the office budget, staff, and space.
- Assisted staff from other offices with strategy to place and clear amendments related to small business.
- Developed policies and recommendations for Small Business Administration (SBA) programs.

#### Accomplishments

- Managed the Committee’s efforts to enact the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA), and drafted the small business finance portion of that law (P.L. 111-5).
- Worked with the appropriators, the Administration, policy staff and industry to enact and continue three of five extensions of the ARRA SBA provisions to continue funding for the key SBA finance programs and to continue higher guaranties for lenders and lower fees for borrowers (P.L. 111-118; P.L. 111-144; and P.L. 111-150).
- Collaborated with Senate leadership and other key committees on the Small Business Committee’s efforts to draft and pass the *Small Business Jobs Act* (P.L.111-240).
- Led the Committee’s efforts to pass a comprehensive, six-year reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs (P.L. 112-81) by:
  - Partnering with Ranking Member Snowe’s staff to develop a compromise between divided business groups to comprehensively reauthorize programs after nearly six years of disagreement
  - Developing a creative strategy to attach the Senate’s SBIR/STTR reauthorization bill to the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012* during Senate consideration
  - Securing a final compromise with the House, which resulted in the legislation being enacted in Dec. 2011

**Acting Democratic Staff Director** for Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA)

**OCT 1, 2011– MAR 31, 2012**

This was a temporary assignment when the permanent director was on extended military leave. During that time, I had the following responsibilities:

- Led staff in the development and implementation of all policy objectives, strategies and operating plan

- Acted as the Senator's principal liaison with small business constituents and interest group
- Supervised and managed daily operations of nearly 20 staff, setting administrative goals and desired outcomes
- Managed staff in the completion of Senator Landrieu's top priorities for 2011:
  - Enactment of the *SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2011* (P.L. 112-81)
  - Confirmation of Dr. Winslow Sargeant as Chief Counsel for the SBA's Office of Advocacy
  - Elimination of an inherited backlog of more than 1,000 letters in less than six weeks

**Deputy Democratic Staff Director** for Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA)  
**Professional Staff** for Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA)

**FEB 16, 2005 – JAN 21, 2009**  
**May 15, 1998 – FEB 15, 2005**

- Advised Senator Kerry on the SBA's business counseling and finance programs, including microloan and venture capital programs, the SBIR and STTR programs, and the SBA's budget and appropriations.
- Worked closely with the staff director on hiring decisions, promotions, personnel issues, and negotiations with the Republican staff on budget, staff, and office space.
- Established and maintained the Committee's agenda and priorities.
- Drafted legislation and wrote committee reports, floor statements, and remarks for the Congressional Record.
- Maintained relationships with trade associations, including the National Assoc. of Government Guaranteed Lenders for SBA 7(a) lenders, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Assoc. of Small Business Development Centers, and the Assoc. of Women's Business Centers.
- Developed strategies for getting bills under the Committee's jurisdiction enacted by building outside supporters and large coalitions of bipartisan co-sponsors.

Accomplishments

- Led Senator Kerry's efforts to enact emergency legislation to help small businesses hurt by the Terrorist Attacks of 9/11 (P.L. 107-117) and to establish the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (P.L. 106-50), designed to assist military reservists who own a small business and must leave when called to duty.
- Worked with governors and Republican staff to enact the *Small Business Drought Relief Act* (P.L. 109-163) to ensure the eligibility of SBA disaster loans for non-farm small businesses harmed by drought.
- Served as lead staffer on legislation to implement the New Markets Venture Capital program (P.L. 106-554), an innovative program to invest venture capital in areas with chronic unemployment.
- Led numerous victories to restore proposed budget cuts to the SBA's core small business programs, and passed legislation to create Sustainability Grants for Women's Business Centers.

**ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Business New Haven Magazine**

**JAN 9, 1995 – JAN 30, 1998**

*Assistant Editor/Writer/Editorial Assistant*, New Haven, CT

- Worked with the editor and publisher to set editorial content and layout; managed all special issues which tripled regular content and increased company revenues
- Assigned articles and helped manage approximately two dozen contributing writers and photographers
- Edited stories and wrote features, company profiles, and news briefs
- **Hours worked – Typically 20 hours weekly for six months, and at least 40 hours for the remainder**

**Gubernatorial Campaign - Bill Curry (D-CT)**

**APR 4, 1994-OCT 3, 1994**

*Policy Advisor - Research Staff*, Hartford, CT

- Developed proposals from crime and property tax reduction to economic development; reviewed the impact of unfunded mandates on municipalities; wrote mission statements and memos, worked the field
- **Hours worked – Typically 40 hours**

**Yale University Art Gallery**

**JAN 3, 1994- APR 1, 1994**

*European and Contemporary Art, Temporary Assistant*, New Haven, CT

- Helped curator with correspondence, donor meetings regarding their collections, planning sessions with other curators, and meetings with the conservator to discuss restoration and works in storage
- **Hours worked – Typically 40 hours**

**U.S. Senate - Senator Bob Krueger (D-TX)**

**FEB 4, 1993-JUL 13, 1993**

*Research Asst/Junior Legislative Assistant, Washington, DC*

- Focused on judiciary, education, and budget issues, plus Krueger’s priority, the first federal anti-stalking law
- **Hours worked – Anywhere from 45 to 60 plus hours weekly**

**U.S. Senate - Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX)**

**APR 2, 1990- FEB 3, 1993**

*Research Asst/Correspondent/Staff Asst, Washington, DC*

- Tracked issues and legislation regarding civil rights, education, immigration, judiciary, and the federal budget
- **Hours worked – Anywhere from 40 to 60 plus hours weekly**

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Dumbarton Oaks**

**MAR 3 2012 –DEC 6, 2014**

*Garden Volunteer, Washington, DC*

- Maintained 16 acres of landscaped gardens in Georgetown donated in 1940 from the Bliss family to Harvard

**Hyde-Addison Elementary School**

**NOV 1, 2012 & NOV 1, 2013**

*Fall Fest Chair, Washington, DC,*

- Organized and managed a half day of activities for 320 pre-K to fifth grade students on an \$800 budget

**EDUCATION**

**University of Houston, Houston, TX**

**DEC 1989**

Bachelor of Arts. Major: French, Minor: Sociology

**Sorbonne University and Alliance Française, Paris, France**

**SEP 1986 – MAY 1987**

Intensive French Language Classes

**University of Houston, Madrid, Spain**

**JUN 1989**

Intensive Spanish Language Classes

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Conversational French

Conversational Spanish

**REFERENCES**

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