

McKenzie Bennett
Principal

Education

University of Michigan
School of Social Work, M.S.W.
Rollins College, B.A.

McKenzie Bennett joined Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas in 2019 after serving in a number of influential health policy positions on Capitol Hill.

Most recently, McKenzie was the Senior Health Policy Advisor for Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH), a member of both the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP). Prior to working for Hassan, McKenzie was a Health Policy Advisor to former Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), spearheading his work on public health and women's health, as well as coordinating the caucus strategy on such issues.

While working with Senator Hassan, McKenzie led the development, planning and coordination of Hassan's work on health care. Among her accomplishments was securing increased funding for New Hampshire, one of the states hardest hit by the opioid crisis, to help combat the crisis. McKenzie also worked on numerous bills to increase public health and provider tools to help patients addicted to opioids, including legislation to increase access to medication-assisted treatment and to improve care coordination.

McKenzie also led Hassan's work to address surprise medical bills, drafting legislation to protect patients from such bills and to resolve payment disputes between plans and providers. She has worked across the aisle and with several key stakeholders on this initiative.

During her time with Leader Reid, McKenzie worked on a number of high-profile health care priorities, including helping to negotiate the passage of the \$1.1 billion supplemental appropriations legislation to address the Zika virus in 2016. She also represented the Democratic Leader during several negotiations on health care issues. McKenzie has extensive experience with the Senate budget process, including as part of a key group of Leadership and Committee staffers arguing before the Senate Parliamentarian during the budget reconciliation process related to the Affordable Care Act in 2015. She was also involved in the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, and several other pieces of legislation.

McKenzie began her career on the Hill with Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), where she conducted research on health care issues, and then moved to the office of Senator Jim Webb (D-VA).