

Life In Brief

Hometown: Columbia, MD

Ethnicity: Black/African American

Marital Status: Married

Education:

BS, Health Care Management, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1989

Family:

- Married to wife Deborah for 31 years
- Three children
- Daughter Chanel is CFO for Pyer Moss Fashion House in NYC

Work History:

- Senior VP of Government Affairs, American Health Care Association, 2013-present
- VP of Government Relations, HCR ManorCare, 2004-2013
- Administrator, Medical Facilities of America, 1991-1997
- Administrator, Brookwood Nursing Home, 1990-1991

Quick Summary

Native Washingtonian with decades of experience in the long term care industry who leverages his expertise and proximity to DC to represent the needs of skilled nursing facilities and their vulnerable residents

- Born and raised in the DC area; went to Virginia Commonwealth University and began his career by operating nursing facilities in Northern Virginia

- Eventual leadership position within the long-term care industry combined with close proximity to DC allowed him to enter the lobbying field, advocating on behalf of skilled nursing and long-term care facilities
- Strong supporter of Medicaid and Medicare; advocates against cuts to such programs, believing high reimbursement rates translate to higher quality care, and supports reforms that eliminate barriers to care
- Favors partnerships between Veterans Affairs and private sector care facilities to expand options for elderly and injured veterans
- Considered a pioneer within the long-term care industry, as there is a disproportionately few number of Black Americans serving in high-level positions; was compared to Jackie Robinson by a mentor early in his career, and has been involved in organizations that promote Black leadership

Approach and Motivations

Knowledgeable and passionate about the industry he advocates for, as well as those who rely on its services; known for having a hands-on approach to lobbying efforts

- Genuine passion for the nursing facility industry; was inspired to pursue the field after volunteering at a nursing home, began lobbying after he had established a career running nursing facilities
- Known for his people skills positively impacting his lobbying efforts, easily fostering relationships with key legislators and staff members; works by the motto “you go out there and play,” spurring a heavily involved approach to tackling the issues faced by the industry

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Focuses on policies that benefit skilled nursing facilities and the populations who depend on such resources

- Strongly against Medicaid cuts due to the millions of Americans who are dependent on Medicaid to receive long term care; believes low Medicaid reimbursement rates affect the elderly and vulnerable
- Opposes requirement for patients to be admitted to a hospital for three days before receiving care in a skilled nursing facility covered by Medicare; this requirement is oftentimes not met, and leaves patients with surprise medical bills they cannot afford
- Pushed for the passage of the IMPACT Act of 2014, which requires the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement reforms to improve recordkeeping and quality tracking among post-acute care providers
- Supports partnerships between the VA and long-term care providers, as it allows expanded access for veterans to receive quality care while keeping facilities free from additional regulatory burdens

Core Communities

Connected to influential individuals, as well as organizations that promote health care initiatives as well as Black leadership

- Was pushed to enter the nursing home and long-term care industry by VCU nursing school professor Anthony DeLillis
- Career at HCR ManorCare was enriched under the leadership of Senior Executive VP and COO Keith Weikel
- Considered retired VP of Government Relations at Genesis HealthCare Larry Lane to have been

a mentor within the health policy lobbying industry

- Involved with organizations focused on promoting Black leadership, such as the Washington Heads of Office and VCU's African American Alumni Council
- Has held leadership positions in organizations focused on implementing quality health care, such as Health Quality Innovators, the Ohio Health Care Association, and the Health Facilities Association of Maryland

Relevant Financial Information

Made a few donations to Republican candidates over the years

Family and Personal Background

Became interested in the skilled nursing facility industry after volunteering at a nursing home

- Grew up in the DC area; his mother was an analyst for the National Security Agency and would frequently travel for work
- While attending Virginia Commonwealth University for health care management, Porter volunteered at a hospital but didn't feel it was the right fit; an advisor suggested he volunteer at a nursing home instead, and Porter fell in love with the profession
- Began his career by starting a 34-bed nursing home in Virginia
- Was working for HCR when it was purchased by ManorCare, and he received a promotion to an executive position; by running the DC-area market, Porter was able to enter the political sphere
- Eldest child, Chanel Porter, is a senior consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers

