

Congressman Bart Gordon's Extended Biography

(To be used for introduction purposes.)

Throughout Congressman Bart Gordon's time in Congress, he has committed himself to finding bipartisan 'solutions' that actually solve problems. As the dean of Tennessee's delegation, Bart Gordon is serving his 12th term in Congress, representing the Sixth District, which includes 15 counties.

In January 2007, Bart became Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee – the first Tennessee Committee Chairman in over 30 years. When he became the Chairman, he set out to make the Science and Technology Committee the “committee of good ideas and consensus.” During the first two years, the Committee passed 87 bipartisan measures – 86 of which were passed unanimously.

Bart authored landmark legislation, the America COMPETES Act, which the President signed into law in August 2007. The legislation will do three things: improve math and science education, increase the America's investment in scientific research, and help our country achieve energy independence.

Bart has also authored legislation to establish voluntary, health-based clean-up guidelines for methamphetamine labs. His bill, which became law in December 2007, aims to protect families from the dangers of meth labs in their communities and to provide tools to help local law enforcement to detect hidden toxic hazards that remain in the labs.

Bart is also a senior member of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, where serves on two subcommittees – Health, and Telecommunications and the Internet.

One of Bart's highest priorities is making sure parents have the tools they need to control the content their children can access through TV, by telephone and on the Internet. Bart authored legislation to protect citizens from fraudulent 1-900 and 1-800 phone numbers.

Bart's youth suicide prevention measure, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, established a grant program to help bolster suicide intervention and prevention programs. In addition, his Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act became law to prohibit sports agents from bribing or misleading student athletes into signing away their eligibility to play college sports.

Bart was the first member of Tennessee's delegation to oppose a temporary site in the state for disposal of the nation's nuclear waste. He has stood up to four presidents who wanted to place a nuclear waste storage site in Tennessee and continues the fight today.

Educated in Rutherford County public schools, Bart graduated with honors from Middle Tennessee State University in 1971. He served in the Army Reserves from 1971-1972 and received an honorable discharge in 1972. Bart received his law degree from the University of Tennessee. Bart is married to Leslie Peyton Gordon, who is a partner with Korn/Ferry International, and the two have one daughter.