



DGA News

Democratic Governors' Association news release

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DGA Announces 2004 Leadership Team Granholm Will Serve As Federal Liaison

Washington, DC – The Democratic Governors' Association (DGA) will be led by a diverse, accomplished team of governors for the 2004 calendar year. Today, DGA Chair and Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack announced that Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm will serve as the 2004 DGA Federal Liaison.

“Leaders in Washington need to hear from governors when they go about the business of creating national legislation. Governor Granholm is a skillful communicator and an effective lobbyist for Michigan. I am confident that she can put those skills to the task of articulately representing the opinions of her peers from states across the country on major, important federal legislation, like No Child Left Behind and Medicare reform,” Governor Vilsack said today.

“I look forward to working with my fellow Democratic governors to communicate our perspectives to the Congressional leadership, our Congressional delegations, and the administration,” Governor Granholm said. “Whether it is expressing concern over unfunded federal mandates or working to avoid cuts to vital health care programs for our citizens, it is critical that states’ concerns are heard loud and clear by federal policymakers.”

“To revive our ailing economy and to meet - rather than short-change - our responsibilities to educate and protect all Americans, our country needs strong executive leaders. Democratic governors are answering this call. We are enacting and funding policies that create hope and opportunity for the next generation of young people. We are honoring seniors and families by meeting the responsibility of providing quality health care in difficult economic times. We are working to stop the tide of national job losses in our states and to offer working adults a sense of restored economic security,” Vilsack added.

Just one year after being elected Governor, Jennifer Granholm has made her mark as one of the country’s most articulate, talented executive leaders. Faced with a daunting budget crisis and trickle down manufacturing industry job losses from her first days in office, Governor Granholm has waged a sophisticated, untiring campaign to restructure Michigan’s budget and create job opportunities. In addition to resolving a \$3 billion budget deficit, Governor Granholm convened a Manufacturing Matters Summit of business and labor leaders and moved quickly to sign legislation into law reauthorizing one of the state’s top economic development programs to spur job

growth in the state. Granholm is the first female to be elected Governor in Michigan's 167-year history. Before being elected Governor, Granholm served as Michigan's Attorney General.

As DGA's Federal Liaison, Governor Granholm will work with leaders on Capitol Hill and in the Administration to convey the opinions of Democratic governors on major federal policies, like "No Child Left Behind" and homeland security funding.

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