

The Honorable Dave Obey

Senior Counsel



As one of the longest-serving Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and veteran of 42 years of the United States House of Representatives, no one knows the federal government's funding process better than Dave Obey.

Mr. Obey serves as Senior Counsel at Gephardt Government Affairs. In that capacity, Mr. Obey provides invaluable insight to clients regarding their federal legislative strategy and issue management throughout the interagency budget and appropriations process.

Mr. Obey was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1969 to 2011, representing Wisconsin's 7th District. At the time of his retirement from Congress, he was the third most senior Member of the House. Of the over 10,000 people who have served in the House of Representatives during the country's history, only 19 have served longer than Mr. Obey. Upon his retirement, President Barack Obama commented: "Dave Obey is a true giant of the House of Representatives, where his wealth of knowledge and his unflinching dedication to middle class Americans will be sorely missed." Mr. Obey served on all three major committees critical to every national economic sector: the Budget Committee, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Appropriations Committee.

During the course of his nearly four decade career in Congress, Mr. Obey became renowned for his ability to strike bipartisan consensus on one of the most powerful committees. Appointed to the Appropriations Committee during his first year in Congress, he was elected to serve as Chairman of the full Appropriations Committee in 1994 and again from 2007 - 2011. As Subcommittee and full Committee Chair on Appropriations, Mr. Obey worked productively with Administrations of eight U.S. Presidents, both Republican and Democrat.

From 1985 to 1995, Mr. Obey served as Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, overseeing the funding of U.S. foreign policy during a decade of landmark world events. He believes the most important historic role the committee played was the bipartisan work with the George H. Bush Administration to help Eastern Europe transition from communist authoritarianism to Western capitalist democracies following the fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Obey also served as Chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittee, where he presided over funding issues in support of strengthening our nation's education and health care systems, two causes he considered the most important of his career. He also brings a long and clear history on worker health and safety issues. In his role on the Joint Economic Committee, which he twice chaired, he focused largely on tax, trade and labor policy.

In addition to his role at Gephardt Government Affairs, Mr. Obey also serves as a Senior Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service, an institute of the University of Wisconsin system. At the Institute, he will continue his work with students at the secondary and post-secondary levels to teach and encourage participation in government and public policy issues.

In 1962, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly, where he continued to serve until 1969, upon his election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Obey earned his undergraduate and Master's degrees in Political Science with a focus on Russian and Chinese politics at the University of Wisconsin.

Contact: contact@gephardtgroup.com
Phone: 202-403-2037