



Honoring The Senate Legacy Of



STATE SENATOR

Jean D. Breaux

1958 - 2024



Website Biography

Jean Breaux was elected to the State Senate in December of 2006 and served as Assistant Democratic Leader for the Senate Democratic Caucus from 2012 to 2020.

Breaux was a member of the Indiana Recycling Market Development Board and the Medicaid Advisory Commission. She was appointed to serve on the Health and Human Services Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories.

Breaux also was a member of the Indianapolis Urban League, the NAACP, and past board member for the National Kidney Foundation. She also was appointed in 2011 to the Board of Commissioners for the Indiana Women's Commission. In 2013, she was an advisor on the Indiana State Fair Advisory Committee. Breaux was also appointed to serve on the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.

In 2009, Breaux was selected to attend the Program for Emerging Political Leaders hosted by the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Breaux attended Boston University and graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She also earned professional certificates from the Economic Development Institute and the International Economic Development Council.

Recent Senate Committee Posts (2023 Session)

- Health & Provider Services, Ranking Minority Member
- Natural Resources, Ranking Minority Member
- Agriculture, Ranking Minority Member
- Commerce and Technology
- Public Policy
- Utilities

Honors and Awards

- Association of Retired Members of the General Assembly 2023-2024 Civility Award
- The National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) 2023
- Elected Woman of Excellence Award
- Gamma Phi Delta Sorority's National Honorary Member of Distinction

Overview of Time in the Senate

After being elected in 2006, State Senator Jean Breaux immediately began working to improve life for the people in her district and across the state, becoming a champion for maternal mortality, addressing poverty, ending gun violence in communities and more.

Senator Jean Breaux was especially devoted to addressing inequity in healthcare, understanding the extreme injustice of Hoosiers being blocked from accessing the doctors, care and medicine they need to survive.

During her tenure, she authored and supported multiple proposals to ensure access to medicine and healthcare, promote diversity in the medical field, connect patients to care and more, such as:

- 2023 – [Long-acting reversible contraceptives](#) to offer birth control options to women immediately postpartum.
- 2023 – [Pharmacists providing contraceptives](#) to increase access for women by permitting pharmacists to directly prescribe hormonal self-administered birth control.
- 2022, 2023 – [Coverage for living organ donors](#) to incentivize more life-saving organ donations by providing coverage for those who donate.
- 2022 – [Scholarship for minorities in health care](#) to promote increased diversity in medicine.
- 2021 – [Mental health treatment for inmates](#) to support extended essential mental health aid for inmates.
- 2021 – [Statehouse Kidney Day](#): Senator Breaux was a huge proponent of kidney screening and preventative medicine. Because of this, she helped in the effort to introduce a free Kidney Screening Day at the Statehouse.
- 2020 – [Called for](#) public scrutiny of data tracking the COVID-19 pandemic’s effects on long-term facilities.
- 2020 – [Advocated for](#) and [served on](#) the COVID-19 Health Disparities Task Force to study disparate impacts of the pandemic, particularly those affecting racial minorities.
- 2019 – [Medicaid coverage for doula services](#) to connect expecting and new mothers with invaluable support and guidance up to one year postpartum.
- 2016 – [Study of drug pricing and access](#) to require the review of drug prices and access to support more Hoosiers connecting to essential care.
- Senator Breaux did extensive work to support expanded coverage for Medicaid recipients:
 - 2015 [Medicaid payments for dialysis treatment](#).
 - 2019 – [Medicaid addiction treatment for pregnant women](#)
 - 2020 – [Lead testing of Medicaid covered children](#)
- 2015 – [Kidney Early Evaluation Fund](#) to create the Kidney Early Evaluation Program to support the early detection of chronic kidney illness and promote follow-up evaluations, doctor visits and better outcomes.
- 2014 - [Health Matters Bill](#) to amend the definition of attendant care services so that home care attendants would be able to provide assistance to their clients with taking medications.
- 2014 – [Health care professional cultural training](#) to require medical professionals to complete cultural health competency training, to improve health care experiences and outcomes for minority populations.

Senator Breaux was also an unwavering advocate for improving public safety and promoting the safety of all communities, introducing and supporting legislation such as:

- 2023 – [Machine guns; firearm safety guide](#) would have amended the definition of machine guns to ensure the inclusion of weapons that are converted to fire automatically.
- 2021 – [Juvenile justice](#) to protect children under interrogation from police coercion and making false statements.
- 2020 – [Handgun safety training](#) would require eight hours of training of firearm owners

- 2020 – [Lead poisoning prevention](#) would define safe and acceptable lead levels to ensure safety of children.
- 2017, 2016 – [Handgun training](#) to ensure those with a gun would be required to have 8 hours of training before being permitted to be armed.

Another mission of Senator Breaux’s was to address poverty with the goal of supporting the success of all Hoosiers, no matter their background or zip code. Senator Breaux worked to ensure access to a good quality life for every resident with proposals such as:

- 2023 – [Eligibility for senior tax deduction](#) to support housing aid for our oldest Hoosiers.
- 2023 – [FSSA matters](#) to change eligibility requirements for programs like SNAP and CHIN and make sure Hoosiers in need had access to healthy foods.
- 2022 – [Mandatory utility base rate cases](#) and [annual customer reports by utilities](#) to put necessary transparency measures in place to support Hoosier ratepayers from being preyed on.
- 2020 – [Called for](#) statewide public hearings from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission on proposed utility rate increases.
- 2020 – [Healthy food finance](#) to provide aid to increase the availability of nutritious food in underserved communities.
- 2019 – [Homelessness study](#) to study comprehensive solutions the Legislature could take to lower the number of residents without homes.
- 2018 – [Fair pay in employment](#) to make sure Hoosiers of every race, gender and origin had access to fair-pay at their jobs.

Senator Breaux championed a number of issues and bills beyond those listed above. As a legislator, she truly led with compassion and worked to give her time and focus to every issue impacting her community and Hoosiers. She never shied away from hard work and secured several victories through bipartisan collaboration. Here are several bills passed by Senator Breaux in the last five years:

- SB 416 – [Medicaid coverage for doula services](#)
- SB 63 – [Mental health treatment for inmates](#)
- SB 6 – [State house monument of suffragists](#)
- SB 10 – [Statehouse maternal mortality review committee](#)
- SB 381 – [Children in need of services](#)

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