
The Honorable Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr. Chairman of the Board



The honorable Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr. became the chairman of the board of directors for Susan G. Komen for the Cure in April 2007. He has served as a board member since 2005 and as public policy committee chair since 2003.

Bentsen is president and chief operating officer of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association, a national trade association representing financial services companies and manufacturers.

From 1995 to 2003, Bentsen represented the 25th District in Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives serving on the Budget, Financial Services and Small Business Committees. As a senior member of both the House Budget and Financial Services

Committees, he helped craft the legislation to establish the Children's Health Insurance Program extending health care benefits to more than five million children of working families.

Bentsen's long-standing commitment to fighting the war against cancer includes co-sponsorship of the Access to Cancer Therapies Act, the Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, the Bipartisan Protection Act, the Screening Mammography Act and the Eliminate Colorectal Cancer Act, among others.

In addition, he was actively involved in the drafting and passage of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and helped to modernize the nation's banking and securities laws, the U.S. response to the Asian financial crisis and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act which enhanced federal oversight of U.S. capital markets. He also authored and co-authored many measures related to healthcare, thrift savings plans, international trade and the nation's response to terrorism, particularly with respect to banking and insurance.

Previously, Bentsen was an investment banker in Houston and New York, specializing in municipal and housing finance. He was a senior banker on many structured finance, mortgage-backed and general government transactions between 1987 and 1995.

Bentsen serves as a member of the development board of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the San Jacinto Museum of Texas History. He also serves as a board member for the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation.

Bentsen earned a Master of Public Administration from American University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of St. Thomas. He is married to the former Tamra Kiehn and they have two daughters, Louise and Meredith.