

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

BIOGRAPHY

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

(Partial List)

- American Legion National Commander's Distinguished Public Service Award, 2006
- *Forbes Magazine's* 2005 World's 100 Most Powerful Women
- Deep East Texas Council of Governments 2005 Legislator of the Year
- Named "Mr. South Texas" by the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association for 2005
- Ducks Unlimited 2005 Wetland Sponsor of the Year Award
- Adam Smith Federal Elected Official Medal from the Business Industry Political Action Committee, 2004
- Alliance for Aging Research, Distinguished Public Service Award, 2004
- Women's Foreign Policy Group Inaugural Congressional Leadership Award, 2004
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, National Leadership Award, 2002
- National Military Family Association Award for Service to Military Families, 2001
- CLEAT Award for Support of Law Enforcement, 2000
- Texas Women's Chamber of Commerce 100 Most Influential Texas Women of the Century, 1999
- Texan of the Year, Texas Legislative Conference, 1997
- Inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, 1997
- Coastal Conservation Association's Silver Ingot Award, 1997
- Republican Woman of the Year by the National Federation of Republican Women, 1995
- Outstanding Alumna, University of Texas, 1995

In 1993, Texans elected Kay Bailey Hutchison to the United States Senate in a special election, making her the first woman elected to represent the state in the Senate. One year later, she was re-elected to a full six-year term. And in 2000, more than four million Texans voted for her re-election to a second full term—at the time, no candidate in Texas history had ever captured more votes. She serves in the Senate leadership, having been elected by her colleagues to be vice chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, making her the fifth-highest ranking Republican senator.

Defense and Foreign Policy

Senator Hutchison plays a vital role in shaping America's defense policy and fulfilling our nation's promises to our veterans as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. The senator has fought to fund research and treatment of Gulf War Syndrome. She introduced and passed legislation creating an Overseas Basing Commission, which conducted a comprehensive review of the U.S. military's global footprint to help ensure that our Armed Forces are prepared to meet 21st century threats.

Homeland Security

The senator worked to secure funding for an additional 1,500 Border Patrol agents to strengthen enforcement of immigration laws. In 2004, she helped pass the National Intelligence Reform Act, which included provisions she authored to ensure greater screening of air cargo. That legislation instructs the Transportation Security Administration to establish a database of known shippers, develop facility security plans, and mandate use of worker identification cards.

During her term as chairman of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Aviation, she played a major role in drafting the landmark airline security bill passed by Congress after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Tax Relief and Family Support

Senator Hutchison has been a leader in promoting economic growth and tax relief. In recent years, she has led the fight to provide relief from the marriage income tax penalty and to reestablish the deduction for state and local sales taxes for Texans. Senator Hutchison has worked to reduce marginal income tax rates, eliminate the death tax, and lower taxes on capital gains.

Early in her Senate career, she was lead sponsor of the bill to create the new Home-maker IRA. It allows spouses who do not work outside the home to save for retirement through an IRA.

Education and Science

The "No Child Left Behind Act," an historic education reform bill signed into law in

early 2001, includes a provision written by the senator to help recruit mid-career professionals and retirees into teaching positions. The legislation contains other initiatives by the senator, including the requirement for a report card to parents, providing them with regular updates on the performance of their child's school. She also was able to remove barriers that prevented local school districts from giving parents the choice to place their children in a single-gender school or classroom.

Senator Hutchison was instrumental in establishing The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas (TAMEST). It forms the centerpiece of her effort to obtain research and development funding and to promote Texas as a science state. After her efforts to raise the profile of Texas research at universities and colleges, Texas moved to third in the nation in receipt of federal research and development expenditures.

In 2005, Senator Hutchison assumed the chairmanship of the Science and Space Subcommittee of the Commerce Committee, overseeing NASA and the National Science Foundation. In December of 2005, the president signed into law the senator's five-year blueprint for NASA's exploration and research.

Personal History

The senator's Texas roots run deep. Thomas Rusk of Nacogdoches was the first Texan to hold the U.S. Senate seat she currently occupies. He and the senator's great-great-grandfather, Charles S. Taylor, were friends and both signed the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Senator Hutchison grew up in La Marque, Texas and graduated from the University of Texas and UT Law School. She was twice elected to the Texas House of Representatives. In 1990, she was elected Texas State Treasurer. In June 2000, she and several colleagues coauthored *Nine and Counting: The Women of the Senate*, and in 2004, she released her second book, *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country*.

The senator lives in Dallas with her husband, Ray, and their two children, Bailey and Houston.

