

*Biography of*  
**THE HONORABLE KIM HAMMER**  
**ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR**



**CO-CHAIR JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 33**

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Senator Kim Hammer of Benton was elected to the state Senate in 2018, after serving in the House of Representatives for eight years. He represents Senate District 33, which includes parts of Saline County and southwestern Pulaski County.

Senator Hammer serves as the co-chair of Joint Retirement and Social Security of the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. He is a member of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, City, County and Local Affairs Committee, Joint Budget Committee and Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and serves on several different subcommittees.

During his first term as a senator in 2019, he sponsored numerous bills affecting health care in almost all of its many facets. He co-sponsored legislation that updated regulations governing the practice of nursing, the training of chiropractors, the licensure of physical therapists, the prescribing of painkillers and controlled substances, emergency medical treatment, assisted living palliative care, hospice care, the treatment of people with developmental disabilities and Medicaid reimbursements.

He was the Senate sponsor of Act 878 to provide for insurance coverage for treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections, also known as PANDAS, and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, referred to as PANS.

In addition to health care, Senator Hammer's legislative priorities include the process for registering motor vehicles and renewing drivers' licenses. His list of bills also includes measures on municipal aid and workforce services.

Senator Hammer was the Assistant Pro Tempore – 2<sup>nd</sup> District of the 92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. He was the co-chair of ALC – Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Oversight Committee and Arkansas PANS/Pandas Advisory Council. He was also vice chair of the ALC – Administrative Rules.

Senator Hammer was a member of the House of Representatives from 2011 – 2017. He served as co-chair and vice chair in several House and Joint Committees. He served as co-chair for the Legislative Joint Auditing, ALC – Administrative Rules and Regulations, Joint Performance Review Subcommittee and vice chair of a subcommittee on the House State Agencies and Governmental Affairs.

In past sessions, Senator Hammer sponsored legislation to make it easier for nurses to get funds to pay for their doctoral degree, to make foster children eligible for state scholarships and to strengthen the Arkansas Whistle-Blower Act. Senator Hammer sponsored many bills that concern rural fire departments and the Forestry Commission. Senator Hammer also sponsored bills to help create a program for educating parents regarding shaken baby syndrome and to amend provisions of Arkansas law concerning the visitation rights of grandparents.

Senator Hammer is a chaplain and pastor at Saline Memorial Hospice. He and his wife, Karen, have two sons and a daughter. He is a member of Saline Missionary Baptist Church in Tull.