News broke across the state of Arkansas this weekend that former Arkansas state Legislator and Senator Jodie Mahony passed away in his home town of El Dorado December 5th, 2009 at the age of 70. Mr. Mahony recently served as a member of the OEP Advisory board offering a unique perspective after a lifetime of service and leadership to our state, especially in matters of education. His service to our state includes:

- Elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1970, taking office in 1971 and continuing to serve 36 years as a State Legislator and Senator (28 years as a Representative and 8 as a Senator).
- Introduced over 1400 bills and resolutions, served on major state and national legislative committees and regional boards, and won state and national awards for legislation.
- Legislation was focused on improving public education, strengthening child support enforcement, improving services for the developmentally disabled, conserving natural resources, revising election laws, and making state government more efficient.
- Served as Chair of the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Education Reform and served on committees of the national Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

Blogs and news outlets across the state also releasing this news have described Mr. Mahony using terms such as "Statesman", "Legend", "Trail-Blazer", "Honorable", "Friend" and "Giant." The OEP Staff wishes to echo these sentiments while our thoughts go out to Mr. Mahony's family and friends. We are grateful for his service to the children of Arkansas. May he rest in peace.

**Final Thought**

"Jodie Mahony never quit. As a legislator, he fought until the end for causes important to him and to the betterment of Arkansans. When term limits dictated that he could no longer serve, Jodie joined the House staff and remained a key advisor on education issues. And when the doctors said that cancer had won, Jodie fought and stayed with us far longer than anyone expected. To his final days, you could find Jodie in the Capitol, still upbeat, still working the halls, and still fighting. Arkansas has lost an outstanding man who exemplifies public service in our State." – Governor Mike Beebe
The Office for Education Policy
University of Arkansas
Director: Gary W. Ritter
Research Associates:
Nathan Jensen
Caleb Rose
Bentley Kirkland
James Shuls

If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.