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# Sebelius takes governor's association chair

## Sebelius leads democratic governors

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Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, D-Kan., became the chair of the Democratic Governor's Association Monday, as the party assumed its first gubernatorial majority in 12 years.

Sebelius succeeds Gov. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., who ended his second term as DGA chair while he considers a bid for the 2008 presidential race. Gov. Joe Manchin, D-W.V., will serve as vice chair.

"It's exciting for her," Rep. Sydney Carlin, D-Manhattan, said of Sebelius' new position. "Any time anyone from Kansas is in a leadership position, it's significant."

After enjoying a comfortable reelection in November, Sebelius said she looks to make her mark on the national political scene.

"As the incubators of public policy, what we do in Kansas resonates across the country," Sebelius said in a press conference Tuesday.

The Democratic Governor's Association seeks to elect Democratic governors and tends to work on three policy areas: employment, education and health care. Sebelius plans to add energy to its agenda.

"To declare a willingness to become energy independent while giving states incentives to move research and innovation forward is a great way to approach that kind of initiative," Sebelius said.

Carlin supports Sebelius' plans to add energy to the policy.

"Well, she's been focusing on things like wind energy and ethanol," Carlin said. "All of us are looking for ways to use clean energy."

The Republican Governor's Association also chose new leaders last week. Gov. Sonny Perdue, R-Ga., will lead the organization, replacing Gov. Mitt Romney, R-Mass., another likely 2008 presidential candidate. Gov. Matt Blunt, R-Mo., will serve as vice chair.

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