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Personal information:

- Born in Petershagen / Westphalia on March 4th, 1951.
- Married to Prof. Dr. Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn since 1979
- 1957- 1865 Primary School (Volksschule) in Döhren
- 1965-1972 Secondary School (Aufbaugymnasium) in Petershagen
- 1972 University- entrance diploma (Abitur)
- Stay abroad in a Kibbutz in Israel
- since 1973 Academic studies of politics and English
- lecturer/ teacher (Secondary School)

Bundestag:

- Since 1987: member of the German Bundestag,
- 1987-1990: vice chairwoman of the study commission on technological impact assessment
- 1990- 1994 vice spokesperson of the working group on research and technology
- 1994- 1996: chairwoman of the committee of education, science, research, technology and technological impact assessment
- 1996: spokesperson for education and research for the SPD Bundestag fraction
- 1998- 2005: federal minister of education and research,
- 2005- 2009: Chairwoman of the committee on economics and technology
- since Nov. 2009 Member of the committee on Foreign Affairs

Party:

- since 1969: member of the SPD
- since 1993: party executive of the SPD since 1993
- 1998-2003: executive committee of the SPD in Lower Saxony
- since 1995: Chairwoman of the "Wissenschaftsforum der Sozialdemokratie" (social democratic forum on science and research)

Memberships:

- senator of the foundation of Lower Saxony (Stiftung Niedersachsen)
- member of the board of trustees of the Deutsche Telekom foundation
- member of the board of trustees of the DIW Berlin
- member of the executive committee of the Carl Duisberg Förderkreises (Supporting Initiative) in Lower Saxony
- member of the foundation board of the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies
- patron of the Linden-Limmer-Stiftung foundation, Hannover