

# EDITORS' NOTE

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By Scott A. Olson and Jessica A. Defenderfer

Public policy is the vehicle of progress. While politics and the political environment are inextricable elements in policymaking, the common link between every successful government and society is sound public policy.

The United States is at a crossroad. Where communism once fueled sensationalized policy debates, transnational terrorism now seeks to consume the rhetoric of many policymakers. We, as U.S. citizens, can choose to ignore the ideological bickering of policy leaders or demand that they draw upon our rich national history of sound policymaking to guide the nation through uncharted waters. As our nation begins debate over who will become our next president, we must never lose sight of the fact that rhetoric and political posturing are valueless if they do not fuel the engine of progress. Sound public policy is the only way to ensure our nation remains competitive in the 21st Century. We must choose to put ideology aside and build a bridge toward a better tomorrow.

This edition of *Policy Perspectives* contributes to the debate of sound public policy in a number of ways. First, Bill Novelli, CEO of AARP, talks candidly with *Policy Perspectives* about the challenges facing the U.S. with the upcoming retirement of the baby boom generation. Novelli aptly describes the role of the U.S. government in addressing the upcoming financial security and health care needs of its citizens and the responsibility of AARP in informing the policy debate.

Second, Jeffrey M. Poirier examines the costs and benefits of implementing juvenile crime prevention, using the District of Columbia as a case study. Budgetary feasibility is an increasingly important element in any policy, and Poirier details how local policymakers can effectively reduce juvenile crime by investing in preventative strategies.

Third, Susan E. Randolph discusses negotiated rulemaking against the backdrop of congressional debate over the REAL ID Act of 2005. Randolph provides a valuable perspective on how this

controversial legislation was crafted and an insightful critique of stakeholder involvement in federal policymaking. Federalism is a seminal aspect of our republic; and the REAL ID Act invites questions of how our nation's founders envisioned rulemaking when states are tasked with implementing federal policy.

Finally, Katrina D. Connelly analyzes China's entry into the World Trade Organization, focusing on the actual and perceived implications for the North American textile market. Globalization continues to reshape the world economic and political landscape. Economic and social integration has inescapable ramifications for both those who embrace globalization and those who fear it. Connelly offers a pragmatic look at an issue that will continue to be a pervasive force in U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

As Editors-in-Chief of this year's edition of *Policy Perspectives*, we applaud the authors on their ability to present new and provocative policy discourse. Each of their articles represents countless hours of toil and determination in writing and rewriting numerous drafts before publication. Without their devotion, the caliber of this year's journal would have been impossible.

We are also grateful for the work of our associate editors. Christine Brown, Stacey Garfinkle, MacKenzie Hawkey, Robin McLaughry, Hayley Trakas, and Yiling Wong worked tirelessly to polish and fine tune each article. Their hard work reflects their talents as writers and policy students, and we appreciate all that they did to help this year's journal meet its potential.

We also appreciate the contributions of the students and faculty of The George Washington University, without whom this project would have never taken shape. We are grateful for the valuable contributions of Bridgett Frey, Julie Nicholson, and Pamala Micheaux Rissler, as peer reviewers of this year's articles. As faculty reviewers, Dr. John Forrer, Professor Jed Kee, and Dr. Ronald Weitzer generously gave of their time and knowledge in an effort to make this year's journal truly outstanding. We are additionally

indebted to our faculty advisor Jill Kasle, who provided thoughtful comments and support throughout this process.

Finally, we wish to thank our friends and loved ones who have steadfastly supported us throughout this entire project. Jessie would like to specifically thank Mrs. Georgene Whalen for instilling in all of her students a love of the English language. Scott would like to thank his friend and mentor, Peter F. Dodds, whose guidance continues to inspire and encourage Scott in his endeavors.

*Policy Perspectives* has a rich tradition of informing political discourse. We believe this edition is no exception. Like any academic journal, it is a single voice. But it is a voice that echoes the values and integrity of the institution that inspires its publication: public policy. We hope our readers will find this volume informative and enlightening.

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Editors-in-Chief