

EDITOR'S NOTE

By Kirsten Foss

The journalist Sydney Harris once wrote that "Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but to get better." Considering this statement, what are the implications for the role of the public administrator or policy analyst in promoting change for the better?

Articles selected for this year's *Policy Perspectives* answer this question by promoting critically needed change and by addressing both the concerns of citizens and the expertise of administrators and analysts. These articles present current policy reforms in education, long-term care insurance, social welfare, and economic policy.

Robin Kane's article reviews a policy proposal to integrate public schools by family income, and includes case studies of the policies in effect in Wake County, North Carolina, and San Francisco, California. Lauren Hersh Nicholas looks at the policy implications of The New York State Partnership for Long-Term Care and makes recommendations regarding the potential role of the Partnership in the market for long-term health care insurance. Sue Rohan applies policy analyst John Kingdon's theory of agenda setting to analyze federal class size reduction policy, considering the trend of national perceptions, developments in policy approaches, and political factors to determine the root of change for this policy. In characterizing welfare recipients' experiences in the District of Columbia, Ashley Simons-Rudolph's work gives women on welfare a chance to comment on the policies that affect their lives directly. Finally, Brian Van Wye's experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali provided inspiration for an insightful analysis on Malians' need for skills tailored to the modern private sector.

The publication of the 2002-2003 edition of *Policy Perspectives* was only made possible from the commitment demonstrated and the work completed by many individuals. Thanks go to *Policy Perspectives'* faculty advisor, Professor Jill Kasle, whose fundamental role in asking basic questions created journal articles from papers, and who encouraged authors and editors alike to delve into their topics. My colleagues throughout this effort were Executive Editor Melissa Merrell and Managing Editor Marianne Hamilton. Melissa went above and beyond to encourage student submissions and plan the editing process, and Marianne offered stellar performance in managing journal operations. Both applied the same high standards

throughout the editing process that have allowed our final product to be what it is today.

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