

Editor's Note

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Futurists contend that the rate of social, political, and cultural change has increased exponentially throughout the past few decades. Although change in itself is not new, modern technology collapses the time frame within which it occurs. It is hardly surprising, then, that we now face an increasing number of challenges to existing governmental policies and procedures.

Improving the quality of life of our citizens is more than simply an esoteric academic enterprise, but poses, in addition, important practical changes. The real challenge before us is how to implement the transformation that modernity requires. We cannot afford a haphazard swan dive into chaos, but a thoughtful exploration of possibilities is not only prudent, but imperative.

In view of its historical focus on linking theory with practice, Public Administration is uniquely positioned to confront these challenges. It is both the perfect forum for critical dialogue examining the relationship of the past to the future, as well as the ideal

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instrument for taking practical advantage of lessons revealed by that dialogue. A discipline well suited to the incorporation of many different ideologies and skills, Public Administration provides a natural home for exploring appropriate strategies of change.

The articles in this issue of *Policy Perspectives* are highly representative of both the field's varied subject matter and the diverse approaches to policy and organizational change located within it. Two of the articles offer analyses of current policy and feature recommendations for amending the legislation. In examining Medicaid Managed Care, Julie Helm contends that serious reform is necessary to ensure that the nation's children are cared for. Andrew Hoffman analyzes the current status of the Independent Counsel Act, and proposes reforms aimed at maintaining its current safeguards and correcting its flaws.

Michael McDavit discusses the benefits of "collaborative partnerships," a recent method of policy creation and implementation. He focuses on the application of this method to the environmental policy arena, using proceedings at Lake Tahoe as a preferred model. Cary Silverman contends that the role of the government lawyer should evolve from that of neutral interpreter of the law into a legitimate participant in the creation of policy. Allen Cutler presents a critique of the philosophical underpinnings of the National Performance Review, specifically as NPR pertains to creative, research-oriented agencies such as NASA. Greer Saunders completes the journal with an annual Supreme Court Review on sexual

discrimination in the American educational system.

Without the hard work and devotion of many people, Volume Six of *Policy Perspectives* would not have been possible. No amount of thanks could repay the contribution of our faculty advisor, the inimitable Jill Kasle. Professor Kasle was an incredible source of support and guidance throughout the process, and we are all very grateful for her help. The journal would have suffered tremendously without her many contributions. I also owe a great debt of gratitude to Dina Dariotis, the Managing Editor of *Policy Perspectives*. I do not know what I would have done without her business acumen and her unmatched organizational skills. Dina has also been a profound source of support and humor during this entire process. I would also like to thank my dear friend Rachel Stein, last year's Editor in Chief, for the education she provided me on the many challenges and rewards of this endeavor.

Given that *Policy Perspectives* is entirely student-produced, the editorial staff is the foundation of this publication. I would like to thank the entire editorial staff for their fine work and devotion to the evolution of the journal. Many thanks to the talented Article Editors – Tom Catlaw, Ilan Haber, Lauren Grover, Chris Atkinson, and Corey Davis – for their insight and vision. I would also like to thank our wonderful team of Associate Editors – Krishnan Sudharsan, Cindy Cortinas Uviedo, Nick Samuels, Judi Mahaney, and Estelle Soule – for their precision and technical prowess. I would also like to thank Laurena Ortiz, our

Technical Editor, for her keen eye and unbelievable endurance.

I am also deeply grateful to the article authors – Julie Helm, Andrew Hoffman, Michael McDavit, Cary Silverman, Greer Saunders, and Allen Cutler – for all of their exceptional work, patience, and kindness. It is not easy to be critiqued on a weekly basis, and these folks handled it with grace and wit.

Many thanks are also owed to our enterprising business team – Don Jaccard and John Linder, and our wonderful marketing team – Sharon Cole and Brian Veronda. We are appreciative of all of your many efforts behind the scenes.

We would be deeply remiss if we failed to adequately express our gratitude to the professionals who took the time to review the articles presented in this journal. Without the insight and guidance offered by these experts, the quality of the scholarship contained herein would not be what it is. Special thanks are owed to Cynthia McSwain, Michael Harmon, Danielle Noll, Alexia Morrison, and Mark Starik.

I would also like to acknowledge members of the faculty and administration at The George Washington University whose support and commitment to student scholarship have made this publication possible. Our gratitude is owed to Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President of The George Washington University; Susan Phillips, Dean of the School of Business and Public Management; and especially to Kathryn Newcomer, Chair of the Department of Public Administration. Dr. Newcomer has been a paragon of wisdom and sup-

port throughout the entire process, and we would have been lost without her. I am also very grateful to Sara Sarmiento, Pam Brown, and Richard Hylton for their patience, expertise, and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank those whose love and support kept my spirit afloat – Megan McWade, Courtney Higham, Lurie Jones, and Julie Helm – all of whom have the precious gift of being able to spin any situation into a hilarious anecdote. I would also like to thank my family for all of their support, encouragement, and love. Last, but never least, I would like to thank Andrew Sevin for his unconditional love and support. ♦

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