

## *Editors' Note*

In 1994, students at the then-named Department of Public Administration at The George Washington University's Business School created a platform to participate in the academic debates in public policy and public administration. *Policy Perspectives* was the first student journal of its kind in the United States. Its editorial staff defined the journal's purpose "to provide an opportunity for individuals to offer their perspectives on public policy and its management around the world."

Fifteen issues later, *Policy Perspectives* unveils a new design, but remains faithful to its original mission. This is a forum for students, alumni, and faculty to refine their work into contributions to the academic conversation. The issue before you includes traditional pieces of policy analysis and research as well as a new section of book reviews. We are particularly proud of the broad range of issues addressed by our authors and their dedication to writing high quality articles.

In her piece about the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), **Elizabeth Kidder** provides a preliminary analysis of the influence of *The Independent Budget* and bureaucratic performance on VHA funding trends. Kidder's analysis is invaluable as the number of veterans seeking health services and the cost of delivering such services continue to increase for the nation's largest integrated health system.

**MaryAnne McReynolds** addresses the controversial dilemma of human trafficking. With emphasis on both its legal and social implications, she considers factors that impede the effectiveness of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in extending immigration relief to undocumented aliens who have been trafficked into the U.S. against their will.

**Bryant Jones** tackles the hurdles of designing a gray wolf recovery and protection plan for Wyoming that will meet federal requirements. He argues that Wyoming should look to the success of its neighbors, Idaho and Montana, in order to design a successful policy that will transfer management responsibilities of the gray wolves from the federal government to state and tribal governments.

**Emily Jones** discusses the implications of overreporting voter turnout in the United States. Survey data indicates that respondents overreport their voting behavior, a phenomenon that can seriously compromise the quality of quantitative analysis.

The articles in this issue are supplemented by a newly added section to the journal: book reviews. We would like to thank **Eric Boyer** for his review of *The Ethics of Dissent: Managing Guerrilla Government* (Rosemary O'Leary), **Jennifer Gross** for her review of *Countering Terrorism: Blurred Focus, Halting Steps* (Richard Posner), and **Jeannine Love** for her review of *Fabricating the People: Politics and Administration in the Biopolitical State* (Thomas Carlaw). Their reviews reflect the quality and depth of the discussions at the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

We are indebted to our amazing team of associate editors, **Micah Elgren**, **Danielle Fleury**, **Sarah Hassaine**, **Matt Kazan**, **Paul Larkin**, **Jessica McKinney**, and **MaryAnne McReynolds**, who invested countless hours into each of these articles. We are grateful to **Lisa Pettibone** as both an associate editor and a designer. We are honored—and extremely lucky—to have such a talented group of colleagues.

We would also like to thank the faculty who read these articles and provided critical feedback during the editing process. This issue would not have been possible without the support and guidance of Professors **Joe Cordes**, **Kathy Newcomer**, **Jill Kasle**, and our anonymous faculty reviewers.

Lastly, we would like to thank you, the reader, and issue you a challenge. The following pages contain the work of your classmates and future colleagues in the battle for efficiency, justice, and truth. Read these analyses, arguments, and recommendations with a critical eye. Think about them. Challenge them. Offer a counter-argument. Let's continue the conversations begun in these pieces in the classroom and in Issue 16. Through our dialogue, we will better understand the problems facing our world, and together, achieve the solutions we know to be possible.

*Christine Brown and Eva DuGoff*  
Editors-in-Chief