

Editors' Note

In a year of economic recovery, *Policy Perspectives* is forging ahead. This year the Trachtenberg School's public policy and public administration programs welcomed the largest incoming class in our school's history. Our journal benefited tremendously from this wealth of knowledge and ambition. We began this year with a mission to build a staff of editors with a strong sense of community, and we have been overwhelmed with the talent our student editors have to offer.

As our nation rebuilds, this journal remains an important forum for Trachtenberg School students to engage in the policy dialogue. We are learning from the lessons of this Congress and this administration that the troubles our country is facing are not temporary challenges but rather questions that transcend generations. Our students and editors have come together to publish a journal that touches on some of these critical issues, foreign and domestic.

Megan Lebow performs a cost-benefit analysis for using Green Dot charter schools as a "turnaround" model for failing high schools. She weighs the costs and benefits, under the assumption of sustained effectiveness, to argue that replacing failing schools with the successful Green Dot charter school model would be cost-beneficial.

Anna Zimbrick examines factors that hinder the ability of Nongovernmental Development Organizations, working with the challenges of slum communities, to learn from the past. She presents key "lessons learned" that prevent NGDOs from effectively using government funding to advance their mission.

Greg Cato offers an analysis of United States' ethanol policy. He examines the cost effectiveness and economic efficiency of the ethanol tax subsidy of meeting our nation's energy and environmental policy goals of oil security and environmental conservation.

Sarah Snyder presents a cost-benefit analysis for a policy requiring parents of sixth-grade girls in Washington, D.C. to certify whether or not their children have received the HPV vaccine. She performs a sensitivity analysis altering the value of a statistical life as the basis for her assertion

that it is economically inefficient for Washington, D.C. to require certification of HPV vaccination for all sixth-grade girls.

We also include three book reviews that touch upon timely policy debates that are of national importance. **Kerry Kooi** assesses Brookings Institution's Ron Haskins and Isabel Sawhill's *Creating an Opportunity Society* that reveals the current state of opportunity in America and puts forth guiding principles for future social policy. **Rebecca Hinze-Pifer** evaluates Richard Rothstein, Rebecca Jacobsen, and Tamara Wilder's *Grading Education: Getting Accountability Right* which challenges current education accountability reform efforts and proposes an alternate model for school and teacher evaluation. **Sarah Rayburn** grapples with Des Freedman's assertions in *The Politics of Media Policy* about the values and assumptions of policymakers in the media policy field.

Behind Volume 17 was our tremendous staff of associate editors: Megan Bourke, Kristin Broughton, Sarah Ficenec, Sarah Griswold, Zach Hauser, Andrea Leung, Sam Percy, and Kaitlin Welborn. This year we also welcomed a new addition to our staff structure. Kyle Winslow was brought on as editorial assistant to uphold the brand and design of the journal by managing our publishing process as well as our book reviews.

Special thanks are due to our faculty advisor Michael Harmon and Trachtenberg School director Kathy Newcomer. We would also like to thank the many GW faculty members who offered up their guidance to this editing process.

We are proud of the *Policy Perspectives* community we have built this year and look forward to passing the torch to this enormously capable editorial team.

Lauren Alfred

Kelsey McCoy

Editor-in-Chief

Managing Editor