
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I present you with the 27th volume of *Policy Perspectives*, the student-run journal of the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration. With contributions and support from students, alumni, and faculty, the journal is a product that reaches across the entire Trachtenberg community and represents our commitment to “doing good and doing it well.”

The research and analyses included in Volume 27 are both timely and significant, with the potential to inform policy discussions happening in the United States and internationally. For example, Timothy Wolf Barham explores the unintended effects of the Aid for Trade initiative and the real winners of the program. In a comparative policy analysis approach, David Gellman considers how policymakers could apply solutions and lessons learned from Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom to address the impending insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund here in the United States.

Policy solutions to improve the United States healthcare system are addressed by both Eli Richman in his analysis of expanding disease entitlement to include diabetes and Jae-Marie Ferdinand in her examination of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit as an essential healthcare resource for children in foster care. With an eye toward policies affecting subsets of the US workforce, Simone Hall offers a thoughtful analysis on the role and form of women’s entrepreneurship as a factor in their economic wellbeing, and Emma Pellerin urges readers to consider how better policies to support teachers is crucial to ensuring a positive educational future for our youth.

From emissions to traffic congestion, our authors consider transportation policy solutions through a social equity lens. Ethan Steakley compares different congestion pricing models and their respective impacts on access to transportation. Miranda Hines considers different tax policies aimed at reducing transportation emissions, analyzing how to maximize effectiveness while not disproportionately impacting lower-income households.

In addition to these articles, Volume 27 continues the tradition of celebrating Trachtenberg students both past and present in interviews with two alumni as well as three blog posts written by current students that first appeared on Brief Policy Perspectives, the journal’s online blog. I encourage you to visit www.policy-perspectives.org to read more blog posts and listen to the GW Wonkcast, *Policy Perspectives*’ student-run podcast.

Between the articles, blog posts, and the podcast, the research of our students enclosed here is available to the broader community of public servants and fellow researchers to consider and engage with. We hope you enjoy this print copy of the journal and encourage you to visit www.policy-perspectives.org to read these articles as well as past volumes in electronic form.

Mary Tschirhart, PhD

Director, The Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration
Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Professor in Public Service