BECAUSE WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

#### generations united



## Intergenerational Policy and Advocacy

American Public Health Association November 6, 2007

#### **Generations United**



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#### **About Generations United**

- National non-profit membership organization
- Founded in 1986 by:
- Child Welfare League of America
  - National Council on the Aging
  - Children'sDefense Fund
  - AARP





We formed Generations United to argue for a caring society.

**Jack Ossofsky** 



To improve the lives of children, youth & older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs.

## What is an Intergenerational Public Policy?



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#### Intergenerational Policy



- Incorporates an intergenerational approach to addressing an issue and/or
- Has a positive impact across the generations

### Intergenerational Policy Answers YES to these questions:

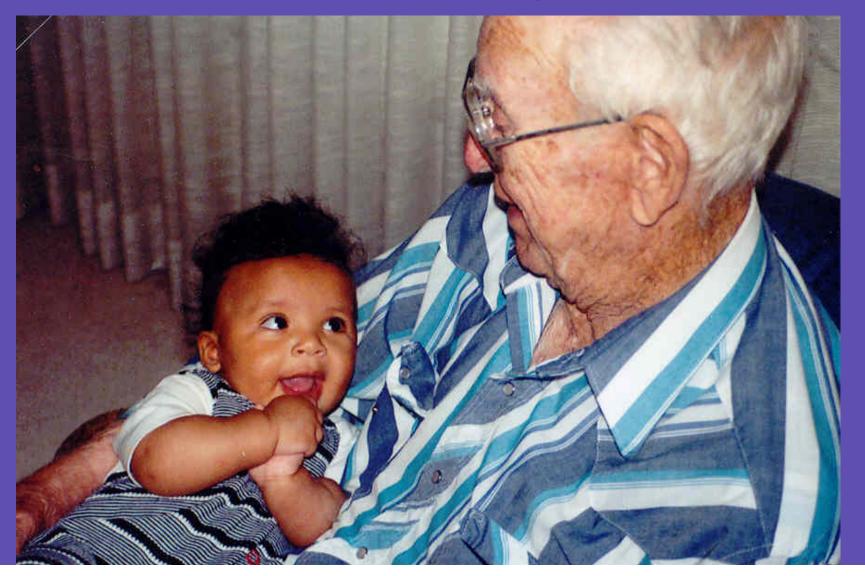
- Are people of all ages being viewed as a resource?
- Does the policy promote the interdependence of the generations?
- Is the policy sensitive to intergenerational family structures?
- Does the policy encourage intergenerational transfers through shared care or services?

### Intergenerational Policies and in Public Health



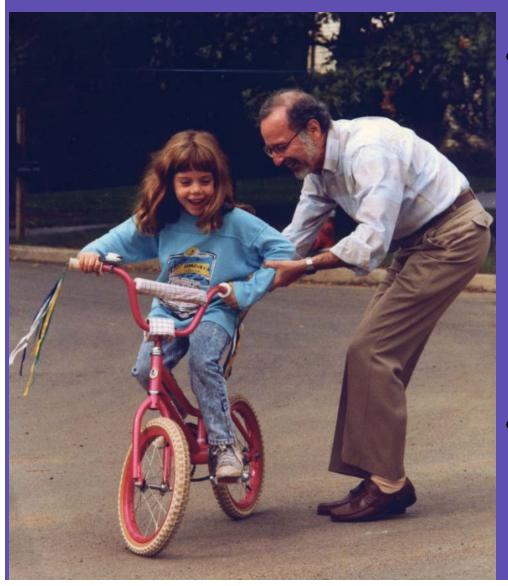
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## State Children's Health Insurance Programs



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#### SCHIP



- Health insurance for children from low-income families who don't qualify for Medicaid and can't afford private insurance
- Important option for many grandfamilies

#### **SCHIP**

- First House bill to reauthorize program made cuts to Medicare Advantage
- Some argued that took from seniors to benefit children
- In reality benefited insurance companies by providing inflated reimbursement for improved services often not delivered and aging advocates agreed with changes
- GU worked with others to help aging and children's advocates talk to each other and join hands in effort

#### Medicaid

- Currently an entitlement
- Proposals to block grant program could pit the generations against each other
- States maybe pressured to choose between long-term care and pediatric health screening

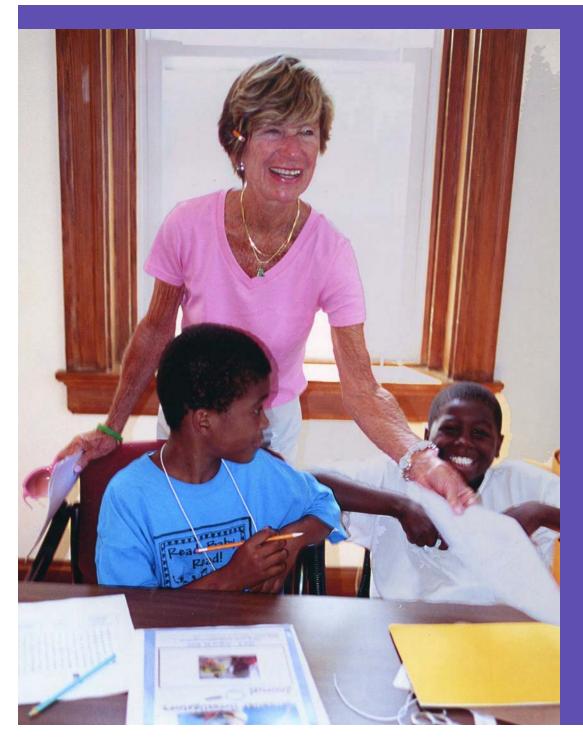


#### Social Services Block Grant



#### Flexible funding for programs all ages:

- Child and Adult **Protective Services**
- Services for pregnant teens
- Adoption and foster care assistance
- Transportation for people with 15 disabilities



### Civic Engagement

#### **Older American Act 2007**

- Authorizes multigenerational and civic engagement programs
- Includes programs that:
  - support grandparents and other relatives raising children
  - support families with children with special needs
  - Engage older individuals in activities to meet other critical community needs.
- Funding pending

### Lifespan Respite Care Act



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#### Lifespan Respite Care Act

- Establishes grant program to assist family caregivers in accessing affordable, quality respite care (including grandfamilies)
- Encourages states to enact state and local lifespan respite programs
- Improves coordination and dissemination of information on respite services
- Builds on model programs like Oklahoma

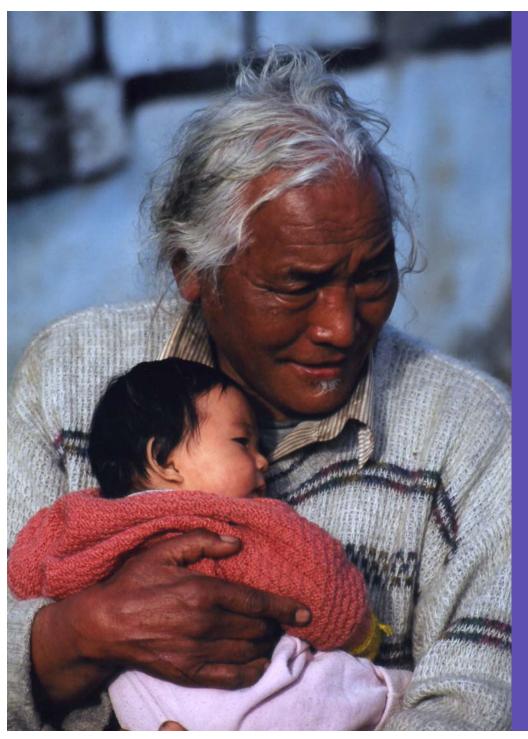
#### Lifespan Respite Act

- Passed House and Senate and was signed into law Dec. 21, 2006
- Still awaiting funding. \$10 million in House bill. None in Senate



## Key Elements for Promoting Intergenerational Public Policy

- Public Policy Committee with representation from leading aging and children's organizations
- Intergenerational Public Policy Agenda for every Congress
- Clear protocol for moving the agenda forward



# Key Elements for Influencing Public Policy:

Policy committee support

Electronic grassroots

Joint visits to key officials

Letters and call-in days

Collaborative rallies

Media coverage

Champions

#### **GU** Resources

- I-path www.gu.org
- Publications and Resources
- Email alert groups
- Newsletter, *Together*
- Technical assistance
- Biennial Conference

# generations

Because we're stronger together

1331 H Street NW, Suite 900 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 289-3979

www.gu.org

gu@gu.org

#### **Photo Credits**

The photo in slide number three is from the Spring, 1987 issue of Aging International, a quarterly publication of the International Federation on Aging.

All other photos in this presentation are from Generations United's Intergenerational Amateur photography contest sponsored by MetLife Foundation.