

BECAUSE WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER

**generations
united**



Intergenerational Policy and Advocacy

American Public Health Association

November 6, 2007

Generations United



**Intergenerational Conflict
in the U.S.?p. 5**



About Generations United

- National non-profit membership organization
- Founded in 1986 by:
- Child Welfare League of America
 - National Council on the Aging
 - Children's Defense 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?



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



State Children's Health Insurance Programs



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 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



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 united®

Because we're stronger together

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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.