



October 6, 2015

The *Georgetown Public Policy Review* Editorial Board works honestly and diligently to uphold the best academic and editorial standards. With that said, Georgetown University is in a unique position, with its location in the nation's capital, to be at the forefront of the national dialogue on current events and critical developments. Our responsibility, as a public policy journal, is not only to focus on research and analysis of policy issues but to also serve as a mechanism and outlet for the McCourt School of Public Policy and Georgetown University communities to engage in important and politically sensitive conversations. These can range from debates on gun control, race and gender, policing, military action, and hosts of other delicate policy issues.

We see it is as our duty to the school and student body to welcome contentious debate and editorials that address these issues. While this may be viewed by some as an unconventional editorial use for an academic journal, we see it as an intellectual imperative of public policy schools around the country. Let us not forget about the "public" in public policy. If we cannot - or aren't willing to - have these conversations, to engage with diverse perspectives, and to seek out opinions that are different from our own, then we are not serving to advance the field and development of public policy, nor are we serving the public.

It is important to note that schools of public policy are a fairly recent phenomenon in academia. As such, we still grapple with how to define the lines where policy and politics cross. To us, commenting on the recent events of the mass shooting at an Oregon community college was the right decision and highlighted a dialogue that desperately warrants attention. We welcome more submissions and commentary on this issue and others so that we can fulfill our mission and obligation to the study of public policy.

Best regards,

The 2015-2016 *GPPR* Editorial Board,

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