

The Emergence of Policy Entrepreneurs---The Key to Affordable Healthcare Regulation

A Transformative Event

- A landmark book titled *Lobbying and Policymaking* has just been published by the *Congressional Quarterly* based upon a decade of research sponsored by the *National Science Foundation*.
- The focus of the book is on actions taken by private interests to affect the activities of regulatory agencies. The authors state that the presence of policy entrepreneurs is the key to making changes in the regulatory state.
- The author's state: "Policy entrepreneurs use their knowledge of people and institutions to get their issue on the agenda and to ensure that their preferred policy alternative has the best chance of success" (p. 55)

Best Practices for Policy Entrepreneurs: Eight Case Studies Which Highlight the Motivations and Operations of Regulatory Policy Entrepreneurs

- The eight case studies include:
 1. Data Quality Act
 2. NAFA Fast Track Procedure
 3. Regulation of Perchlorate
 4. Drug Reimportation
 5. Death Tax
 6. White House Release of Energy Documents
 7. American Jobs Creation Act
 8. Campaign Contributions
- Special Recognition Given to the Data Quality Act (DQA) Case Study

The author's state:

-- Prior to the passage of the DQA, the data a regulatory agency employed to evaluate a product's registration or renewal was not required to meet the same standards of quality and replicability as the data producers provided to demonstrate the products safety, (p.63)

-- OIRA [within the White House Office of Management and Budget] required each government department or agency to develop guidelines to ensure information quality and objectivity. (p. 85)

Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

-- ..the DQA constituted a radical change in regulatory policymaking.

Jim Tozzi as a Leading Policy Entrepreneur

■ The authors conclude:

“In many respects, the most interesting policy entrepreneur in our case studies was Jim Tozzi. The most successful policy entrepreneurs create an institutional change that will shape future policy decisions...Tozzi focused on institutional structures that could ensure a wide range of policy wins”. (p. 68)

-- “..Dr. Jim Tozzi changed the regulatory process by adding two paragraphs to an appropriations bill. The two paragraphs became known as the DQA.”

Recommendation

- The Advisory Board should conduct case studies which highlight the activities of successful policy entrepreneurs whose work resulted in affordable healthcare regulation.
- The aforementioned case studies should be distributed throughout the healthcare industry and be the subject of industry-wide seminars.
- Lessons learned from the seminars should be communicated to CMS, FDA and HHS.

[Staff Background](#)