Message from the President of Influencing Social Policy (ISP)

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Published online: 26 August 2020
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Colleagues and friends,

2020 is a year that will long be remembered: In the USA alone, more than 100,000 people have lost their lives at the hands of the COVID-19 pandemic, while more than a million have lost their livelihoods through the accompanying economic recession. Protesters have taken to the streets in the country's largest and most prolonged demonstrations, pushing back against the scourge of institutionalized racism. Political polarization, encouraged by those at the top, tears at the fabric of our country, while we grapple with the uncertainty of the upcoming Presidential election and the ever-present threats of voter suppression. Meanwhile, all of us are becoming more computer savvy. Our families are settling into new routines and our communities are finding creative ways to connect. We have been forever transformed.

No time could be more apt for a resurgence of interest in public policy—and for the *Journal of Policy Practice & Research*. The profession of social work has vast accumulated wisdom that is sorely needed as our country and our world tackle the challenges of racism, poverty, exploitation, violence, and neglect. Our research can and must provide the foundation for change, while our advocacy translates it into action and our engagement in the political arena helps deliver leadership committed to the realization of social work values.

Influencing Social Policy (ISP)—a national organization committed to actively engaging social workers in policy research, practice, and teaching—is proud to be affiliated with *JPPR*. We welcome the Journal as a vital outlet for quality scholarship in the service of policy reform. It is needed now more than ever, and we are excited to be part of its launch.

I hope that those of you reading and contributing to the *Journal* will join ISP's policy community by participating in our annual conference, Teaching Institute, webinars, contests, and other initiatives. Engage with colleagues through the policy

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listserv, take advantage of our teaching resources, and to join us in our anti-racist work. Check out the ISP website, www.influencingsocialpolicy.org, and Facebook page for membership and more information. There are lots of opportunities to get involved!.

On behalf of the ISP Board of Directors, congratulations and many thanks to Editor-in-Chief Rick Hoefer, the Journal's editorial board, and Springer publications. We look forward to a fruitful partnership!

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.