

What is Public Policy? Transcript

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[Jesse Price, senior advisor of federal government affairs, Lilly USA, LLC.]

Public policy is the combination of individuals or groups around solving a particular issue, affecting, usually large majorities.

[Lynn C. Ross, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute]

Anyway in which government touches our lives, and there are many positive ways, I would argue, in which government touches our lives. For example, it ensures that we have safe food and safe drinking water and roads. The environment is clean. We have health programs that are run by government.

[Nate Miles, advisor of state government affairs, Lilly USA, LLC.]

Some of it is really hard and fast legislation that's actually written down—Ten Commandments-style—thou shalt not. And then there are pieces of public policy that are written that have more leeway purposely written into them so that people in different jurisdictions can interpret those laws the way they want them to. People in the South see things a little bit differently than the people in the North. People in the Northeast see things a little bit differently than West Coast people. And so, to try and make a law that everybody has to live with, without having any flexibility in it one way or the other, just wouldn't work.

[Jesse Price]

What I think folks would find most surprising about public policy is how open the process is. For everything in your field of vision, you can find an advocacy group that promotes that idea – that promotes the welfare and well-being of that particular entity, that particular thought. And it's all right there.

[Lynn C. Ross]

Our constitution starts with the phrase, "We the People," and so our system of government, which is a constitutional republic, was set up so that the people ultimately do get to decide through our representatives that we elect. And those decisions really constitute public policy. And so at the very bottom, I think, at the very heart of our system, is the people. They influence the policy process.