

A 2010 review by the Cochrane Collaboration, *Vaccines for Preventing Influenza in Healthy Adults*, brings into question U.S. vaccination policies. Are recommendations concerning influenza vaccination appropriate? Client: Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) requires criminal background checks only for guns sold through licensed firearm dealers, which account for only about 60 percent of gun sales in the United States. A loophole in the law allows individuals not engaged in the business of selling firearms to sell guns without conducting a background check. Consider alternatives for extending and strengthening the NICS. Client: Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Since 1920 the Jones Act has restricted shipping between U.S. ports to ships built in the United States and owned and crewed by U.S. citizens and legal residents. A consequence of these requirements is that cruises to Alaska and Hawaii typically originate in Vancouver, British Columbia rather than in a U.S. West Coast port. Should the Jones Act be modified to exempt cruise lines? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Should the Food and Drug Administration be given greater authority to regulate compounding pharmacies, like the Massachusetts firm that was recently responsible for scores of deaths from fungal meningitis? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Welfare and Pensions

State legislation and referenda legalizing medical and, more recently, recreational use of marijuana have brought the policies of these states into conflict with federal law. How should the federal government respond? Client: U.S. Attorney General

It appears that the Internal Revenue Service has decided not to pursue tax-exempt 501c4 organizations that apparently have political activity as their primary purpose. These organizations are currently not required to disclose their donors publicly. Should the laws governing 501c4 organizations be changed either to restrict electioneering or to require the disclosure of donors? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

U.S. immigration laws force many international students who earn graduate degrees in engineering and science to leave the United States. The House recently passed a bill that would grant permanent visas to holders of advanced science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees. Assume that this measure will be addressed independently of the broader immigration issue. Draft a policy for consideration by the Senate. Client: Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security

Differences in state taxes on cigarettes create an opportunity for “smurfing,” the purchasing of cigarettes in low-tax states like Virginia for resale without taxes in high-tax states like New Jersey. Does the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act (PACT Act) of 2009 provide adequate authority to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for preventing smurfing? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

In 2012 Wisconsin had the highest incidence of pertussis. What steps, if any, should the state take to reduce this high incidence. Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services

The soaring demand for baby eels, or elvers, has led to dramatically increased harvests, both legal and illegal, in Maine and other Atlantic states that may eventually threaten the species. Should steps be taken to restrict the harvesting of elvers? Client: Chair, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Wiscnet currently provides internet access to a majority of public schools in Wisconsin. Act 32 placed restrictions on Wiscnet, including requiring the University of Wisconsin System institutions to no longer be member of Wiscnet. Are there any provisions of Act 32 threatening the continued provision of internet services by Wiscnet to public schools? Should these provisions be changed? Client: Wisconsin Association of School Boards

The Wisconsin School Medication Law that went into effect in 2011 limits the over-the-counter drugs that school nurses can provide to students. Should this law be revised? Client: Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education and Corrections

Black bears are expanding their range and numbers within Wisconsin. Does Wisconsin have appropriate policies governing bear hunting? Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission is expected to issue its final report on the financing of transportation infrastructure in January. Develop and analyze the most promising alternatives from the report as well as any other alternatives that deserve consideration. Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Transportation

Not only do patients have difficulty assessing the quality of medical care, they also often have difficulty assessing price. Would price transparency be desirable? Are there feasible federal policies to implement it? Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

The federal wind energy production tax credit adopted in 1992 provided a corporate tax credit of 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity produced over the first ten years of operation. Should it be renewed? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Does the Food and Drug Administration have adequate authority for responding to the health threats posed by counterfeit prescription drugs? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Welfare and Pensions

Farm-to-school programs seek to make children more aware of the sources of the food they eat and thereby promote healthy eating habits. One element of farm-to-school is the greater use of local agricultural products in school lunches. However, there are currently high transaction costs in schools connecting with farmers. Should Wisconsin take steps to facilitate the farm-to-school market? Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture

The boom in domestic production of natural gas raises concerns about leakage of methane, a very potent greenhouse gas, from pipelines and other facilities. Should policies be adopted to require the industry to reduce methane leakage? Client, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Many observers of corporate governance have raised concerns about the efficacy and fairness of compensation for the top executives of publicly traded corporations. By virtue of their large stock holdings, institutional investors can sometimes influence the compensation practices of corporations. Should institutional investors seek reform through changes in federal laws? Client: Chair, Council of Institutional Investors

The United States makes extensive use of drones to attack suspected terrorists. However, the use of drones raises a number of ethical and legal concerns. The Obama Administration is currently reviewing its policies concerning the use of drones. Prepare an analysis of alternatives that can inform the receipt of the Administration's review. Client: Chair, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Should Wisconsin participate in the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act? Client: Governor Scott Walker

Environmentalists have expressed concerns that the quotas established by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas inadequately protect the viability of tuna stocks. Should the United States push for a moratorium on commercial tuna fishing in the Atlantic Ocean? Client: Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration