


## Context and Process of Health Policymaking



**PHC 6102**  
Principles of Health Policy and Management

## Objectives

- Describe political context within which health policy takes place
- To describe a model of the public policymaking process

## Health Policy Makers

- Joint federal-state responsibility
- Federal and state gov't function similarly
  - Each state has a constitution and a bill of rights
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  - Each state has a legislative, an executive, and a judicial branch

## States' Roles in Health Policy

- Guardians of the public's health
  - Protecting the environment, ensuring safe workplaces etc.
- Purchasers of healthcare services
- Regulators
  - Clinical licenses, license & monitor health organizations

## States' Roles in Health Policy

- Safety net providers
  - support community-based providers, charity care hospitals
- Educators
  - Subsidize medical education
- Laboratories
  - Massachusetts universal health insurance program

## The Context of Health Policymaking: The Political Marketplace

### Negotiation in Markets

34 Health Policymaking in the United States

**EXHIBIT 2.1**  
Relationships in the Political Marketplace

Sellers	Economic exchanges in market transactions	Buyers
(Suppliers)	←————→	(Demanders)

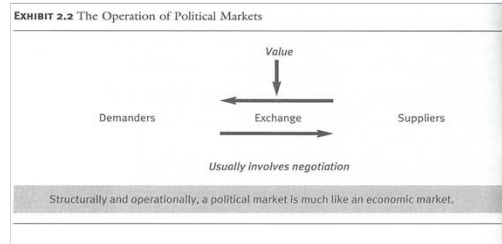
### The Context of Health Policymaking: The Political Marketplace

- Differences between political market and traditional economic market
  - Buyers or demanders in economic markets express their preferences by spending their own money.
  - In political markets, the link between who receives the benefits and who bears the cost is less direct.

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### The Context of Health Policymaking: The Political Marketplace

#### The Operation of Political Markets



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### Demanders of Health Policies

- Anyone who considers such policies relevant to the pursuit of their own health or that of others about whom they care
- Anyone who considers such policies as a means to some desired end, such as economic advantage
  - most effective demanders of policies are well-organized interest groups

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### Suppliers of Health Policies

- Elected Legislators
  - US Congress, state legislatures, or city councils
- Executives and Bureaucrats
  - Presidents, governors, mayors
- The Judiciary
  - US Supreme Court Judges, Appellate Court Judges, Circuit Court Judges etc.

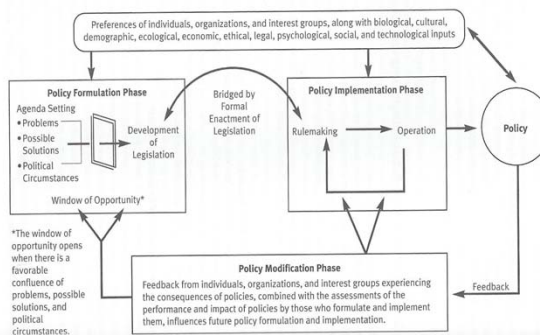
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### Power and Influence in the Political Market

- Legitimate power (or forward power or authority)
  - Derived from position in social system, organization, or group
- Reward power
  - Based on ability of one person, organization, or group to reward others for decisions and action
  - Coercive power is opposite of reward power
- Expert power
  - Possessing expertise valued within the political market place
- Referent power (or charismatic power)
  - Ability of some people, organizations, & interest group to engender admiration
- All are interdependent

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EXHIBIT 2.4 Model of the Public Policymaking Process in the United States

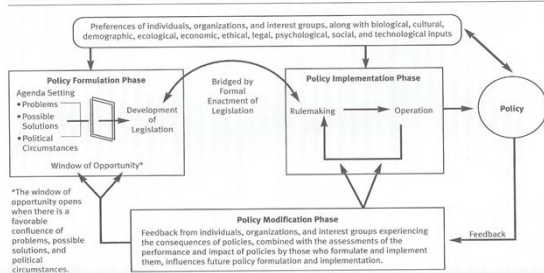


Longest, B. B. (2002). *Health policymaking in the United States*. AUPHA/HAP

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## The Policymaking Process: Interactive & Interdependent

EXHIBIT 2.4 Model of the Public Policymaking Process in the United States



Longest, B. B. (2002). *Health policymaking in the United States*. AUPHA/HAP

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## Summary

- Health policies are made within the context of the political marketplace, where demanders for and suppliers of health policies interact.
- Federal and state government have important policy roles and similar health policymaking processes.
- Demanders of policies include those who view public policies as a mechanism for meeting their objectives, such as economic advantage.
- Suppliers of health policies include elected and appointed members of all 3 branches of government.
- The policymaking process is a highly complex, interactive, and cyclical process that incorporates formulation, implementation, and modification phases.

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## Questions

- Compare and contrast the operations of traditional economic markets with that of political markets.
- Discuss the roles of states in health policy
- Who are the demanders and suppliers of health policy? What motivates each in the political market?
- Define power and influence in the political market.
- What are the sources of power in political markets?
- What are the general features of the policymaking process model (Longest, 2010)?

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## Sources

- Longest, B. B. (2010). *Health Policymaking in the United States*, Health Administration Press.

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