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**Principles of Public Policy**

**Group Assignment #2**

*After watching Jimmy Kimmel “Obamacare” videos, chat with your group. Can a policy work if citizens don’t know it exists? Why or why not? Answer in two paragraphs and submit them on Canvas with the name of the group on the top of your paper.*

After watching the Jimmy Kimmel segment on “Obamacare”, it is apparent that some public policies are not well-known amongst the public. “Obamacare” is just a nickname for the Affordable Care Act, but random people in the Jimmy Kimmel segment were not able to identify that. We think that if people do not know about a policy, the process of making the policy is unavailing and ineffective. Jimmy Kimmel, in his monologue, slightly hinted that people are going to believe or support who they usually do. That implies that, even if a policy is known to people, but if the creators of the policy are politicians that people do not support or agree with, they will go against it. Many of the interviewers said that they support the Affordable Care Act over Obamacare just because they are not supporters of Obama. We think that this is where the government has failed in letting people know everything about a policy as people liked or disliked policies based on the creators and not the actual policy. If people had known more about it, their opinions might have been different, or at least the reasons for them not liking the policy would have made more sense.

Not only that, time is very scarce in a rapid country like the United States. Before people make any decisions that might affect their day to day lives, they will consider if their behaviors cross the boundary of the law and if the methods they choose are the optimal ways to solve the problem as long as the policy allows. If people do not even know some specific policies or laws, they will break the laws unconsciously or maybe deal with problems in an ineffective way. For example, abortion laws are different according to where you live, and they are altered frequently. If people do not know the laws or the policy, they are more likely induce abortion in the wrong time or in the wrong place. Moreover, if people are not made aware of the benefits a policy might bring to their lives, they will suffer from the consequences which might affect them individually and eventually, the country as a whole. Therefore, if citizens do not know the advantages of the policy, it cannot be implemented with maximum effectiveness.

Also, if the policy makers blindly and constantly make policies and people are indifferent to them, the policy is still unsuccessful because a good and permanent policy is the result of communication between the government and the citizens. If citizens are ignorant of the policies, it will induce unredeemable consequences which may detriment their rights. After watching the videos, we feel that there is a percentage of people who are ignorant towards policies simply because they are not well informed or decide to not educate themselves. We do not believe that policies can work if citizens are not aware of their existence. The government should do better to inform their citizens of each policy and exactly how it can affect the future and day to day life.