

FORUM SECTION

Policy Statement

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One of the initial purposes of creating the *Family Science Review* was to provide an outlet for critical essay and dialogue about issues that emerge in the field of family science. It is the feeling of the editors of this publication this will be an important way to enhance the growth and development of the discipline. The **Forum** section will provide an outlet for such an exchange.

There are several areas which will be targeted in this section of the bulletin. Among them are issues about the professional organizations representing family science. This could include debates about policies of organizations such as NCFR, AAMFT, or others, or challenges faced by such organizations. For example, in the March meeting of the NCFR Board of Directors, there were several important issues presented. One rather lively issue that was discussed focused on the Affiliated Councils of NCFR. The Board voted to require all affiliate members to become members of good standing in the parent organization (rather than being members of state organizations only). This is the type of issue about which we would like to receive responsible and thoughtful letters. Our intention is to publish such letters or comments with possible rebuttals, and/or additional comments.

In addition to issues of organizations, we also would like to publish letters outlining research, application, or policy ideas and controversies in the family area. These could take a variety of forms, including statements about ethics or about difficult issues in an area; opinions about federal or local policies affecting families; or innovative ideas clarifying or reshaping policy, research, or teaching approaches.

Our intention is to create an open forum that encourages the best thinking in the field. We will print as many letters and comments as space allows, with a competitive selection process in place to choose the most interesting and stimulating issues. We request that your letters be under four pages in length (although longer ones will be accepted if appropriate), and be written as carefully as you would any journal article. We look forward to hearing from you.

As far as we know, there is no similar forum currently in place for general issues in the field. Critique and challenge in a constructive format can only enhance the quality of our organizations, the relevance of our research, and the importance of what we do in practice. Thus, we believe it will benefit the discipline in general.