**RESPONSE 3**

**What are the major activities in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation stages related to public policy in the U.S.?**

According to Sheila Abood the formulation phase information is gathered, research results discussed, and the issue is outlined (Online J Issues Nursing, 2007). Also during this phase the purpose and desired outcome is clearly defined.    
  
The implementation phase consists of putting the policy or procedures into action.  Regulatory bodies are heavily involved during this phase as well. Regulatory establishes a written set of rules predetermined by existing laws.  
  
The evaluation phase includes adjusting certain policies and procedures to accommodate certain circumstances or unforeseen obstacles.  The evaluation phase also includes making smaller changes to existing policies rather than adding new policies.  
  
However, elected officials, physicians, administrators, and special interest groups (lobbyists), can alter the finished product.  Health care public policy is especially victim to such organizations and political groups.  Republicans and Democrats may agree on the finished product but disagree during the formulation phase and implementation phase.    
  
Politicians rely on the political process whereas physicians and insurance companies rely on what is most effective and beneficial to the patient, regardless of political affiliation.  Without various medical and health care organizational input, public policy would be determined by politics.  
  
Abood, S. (2001). Influencing Health Care in the Legislative Arena.  Online J. Issues Nursing, 12(1). Retrieved from http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/553404\_4