

Social Welfare State (Dluhy, PLS 202)

1. Will we always have an underclass? What do we do about it?

- *Historical poverty statistics, never looked better*
- *Income distribution statistics, not as optimistic*
- *Profile of the TANF (temporary and needy families)*
- *50% in and out of welfare, rest a one time only event*

Is it better to educate and train people with little or no skills and very little education for three years at a cost of \$43,800 or simply find them a job in a robust economy which will cost the government about \$3000 for every successful placement?

2. Should we change the Entitlement Programs and make them more close ended?

- *Open vs. Close ended entitlements*
- *75% of budget*
- *Remove cost of living increases, triggers*

3. What are the essential safety net programs and what programs can be eliminated?

Income maintenance

Health Care—medicare and medicaid

Social Services

Education and Job Training

Housing

Food Stamps

Prescription Drugs/eye-glasses

4. How has welfare reform worked? What are the successes? Failures?

- *Nationwide AFDC case load has been cut 50% since 1996*
- *Entry level vs. career ladder jobs*
- *Transportation and Mobility of workers*
- *“Creaming”*
- *Subsidized vs. unsubsidized jobs, using the tax credit approach*

5. What is future of the welfare state?

