

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910972972003321
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Titolo	The politics of policy change : welfare, Medicare, and social security reform in the United States // Daniel Beland and Alex Waddan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC, : Georgetown University Press, c2012
ISBN	9781589018891 1589018893
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (236 p.)
Collana	American governance and public policy series
Altri autori (Persone)	WaddanAlex <1964->
Disciplina	361.6/10973
Soggetti	Medicare Public welfare - United States Social security - United States United States Politics and government United States Social policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Welfare reform, 1996 -- Medicare reform, 2003 -- The failed attempt at social security reform, 2005 -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	For generations, debating the expansion or contraction of the American welfare state has produced some of the nation's most heated legislative battles. Attempting social policy reform is both risky and complicated, especially when it involves dealing with powerful vested interests, sharp ideological disagreements, and a nervous public. The Politics of Policy Change compares and contrasts recent developments in three major federal policy areas in the United States: welfare, Medicare, and Social Security. Daniel Beland and Alex Waddan argue that we should pay close attention to the role of ideas