

THE  
CASE  
FOR  
BIG  
GOVERNMENT

.....

# CONTENTS

.....

## PART I:

### GOVERNMENT AND CHANGE IN AMERICA

1

*The Danger of an Ideology* • *The Evidence* • *Looking-Back Narratives from the Right and Left* • *The Myth of Laissez-Faire* • *The Many Uses of Government in the 1800s* • *Government as an Agent of Change in the 1900s* • *The Economic Benefits of Government*  
• *Resisting a Pragmatic Government*

## PART II:

### HOW MUCH WE HAVE CHANGED

65

*The History of Change* • *The New Challenge to the Standard of Living* • *The Broad Threat to the American Promise* • *It's Not Just Inequality* • *When Knowledge Also Changes* • *The Purpose of Government* • *Forsaking Pragmatism for Ideology*

## PART III:

### WHAT TO DO

125

*Pessimism in America* • *The Failure of Conventional Wisdom* • *America Has the Money* • *An Agenda*

## Notes

177

## Index

195