

Web-only letters to the editor

Monday, January 11, 2010 6:51 AM

Dispatch.com regularly will post letters to the editor that don't make it to print in The Dispatch. Unlike letters to the editor that appear the newspaper, Web-only letters have not been edited.

Obama's broken promise

After promising not to raise taxes on those who make under \$200,000 per year, President Obama is now aggressively pushing to raise taxes on not only those who make under that dollar amount, but even more insidiously is seeking to raise them on the sick to pay for his expansion of government.

Obama is justifying this by saying the following about insurance plans with low deductibles and low co-payments: "I'm on record as saying that taxing Cadillac plans that don't make people healthier but just take more money out of their pockets because they're paying more for insurance than they need to, that's actually a good idea, and that helps bend the cost curve."

What he fails to understand is that nobody selects these plans in their open enrollment period because they like paying the higher premiums that come with them. I, along with most people who choose the so called "Cadillac plans", do so because of having a family member with significant medical needs. Since President Obama seems to know how much I "need" to spend on healthcare to provide for my family, I would like to see how he thinks that his expansion of government is going to make the medical problems that necessitate the added expenses go away. Perhaps he thinks that if he says it, it will happen.

Rather than pushing a massive government expansion that will do nothing but increase bureaucracy, and raise taxes on sick people. President Obama, and the Congressional Democrats need to stop this partisan train-wreck and start over by gathering input from all

More

- [Web-only letters to the editor](#)
Monday, January 11, 2010
- [Web-only letter to the editor](#)
Friday, January 8, 2010
- [Web-only letters to the editor](#)
Wednesday, January 6, 2010
- [Web-only letters to the editor](#)
Sunday, January 3, 2010
- [Web-only letters to the editor](#)
Friday, January 1, 2010
- [Web-only letters to the editor](#)
Wednesday, December 30, 2009
- [Web-only letters to](#)

of the stake holders in this issue, not just lobbyist and Democratic campaign donors. That way we can address the needs of the people who do not have insurance and the entire country rather than just the wants of those whom this administration favors.

Anthony Hunter, Columbus

Central Ohio's casino

Concerning the newly proposed locations for Penn National Gaming's new, Columbus-area casino, I have to whole-heartedly agree with many, that the "Arena-District" is not the place for this gambling venue.

Although I rarely frequent the Arena District (for various reasons), I feel that area IS NOT in the best interests of a majority of central Ohioans who frequent the various other venues of the area, for a "Las Vegas style" gambling casino.

Further, I am of the opinion that the Cooper Stadium venue will not work, nor will the former Germain/Polaris venue, in Delaware County. That leaves a proposed former Delphi plant, which would probably have to be leveled first, the Westland Mall (JC Penney) site (subject to Columbus annexation),

One site that has not been publicized, is the former Northland Mall. Convenient to I-71, I-270, between downtown, Polaris, and Easton, with a huge Menard's under construction, a standing JC Penney store, nearly 1,000 workers in the "made over" Lazarus store, fire protection close by, and a proposed "make-over" of Morse Road, this venue would seem more likely to be THE place for such an establishment.

But really, wherever the casino ends up, since I do not believe in gambling, and have voted NO every time a gambling issue has been before Ohio voters, I will not frequent such an establishment, I do not have "extra" money to throw away on such "games of chance," and hope that it never even materializes, for the sake of all Ohioans. We can do better.

Dennis L. Anderson, Columbus

Obama vs. Bush

"You're doin' a heckuva job Brownie". Remember that quote from President during FEMA's failure to act quickly? We have had multiple airport breaches in security very recently under President Obama. Who's "doin a heckuva job" now? Remember "W" getting absolutely hammered for not cutting a golf vacation short during a time of crisis? How about Obama not cutting a golf vacation short; nary a peep frm the press! The press and the comedians always had a field day with how often "W" was on vacation. How does Obama's vacation schedule compare? I'll bet we never know, unless Fox News does their own investigation. Day after day, and incident after incident, the difference in presidential coverage is mind numbing, except to this still blinded by Obama's charisma and the adoration of the mainstream media and entertainment community. WAKE UP people! It is America and Americans not being fed unbiased information. News is supposed to be fact without regard to ones politics! There are plenty of editorializing commentaters out there, just the facts please! We can take it, stop covering up something or for someone.

Web-only letters to
the editor
Tuesday,
December 29,
2009

Jeffrey S. Grashel, Columbus

Health care

The powerful Congress has stripped away any sense of worthiness from the health care bill that will do little but break our backs and fund the insurance companies further with our dollars. This is unacceptable. It's outrageous. It's the height of hubris with no redemption forthcoming now or in a much dimmer future for the citizens of this country.

I am appalled at the lack of courage shown by my elected officials who've bypassed the majority view for campaign money that won't be worth the bribe in the long run.

I vote. I will vote you all out of office come the next election. I'm only thankful that at long last, Voinovich will finally exit the Senate where he never belonged.

There may be no consciences left in Washington, but it will not stop the repercussions for those who voted not for the people they represent, but for themselves alone.

This is one more shameful Congress this country can no longer afford. Neither can their consciences, which is why I recommend a true reform of health care not to be found in the current legislation, be adopted before this bill is further reconciled to appease the likes of our elected officials, rather than do the right thing.

John Kellermeyer, Columbus

Tax increases

I am tired of being taxed to death and in addition, tired of the people elected to represent us in Ohio wanting to see the population of this great state to continue to decline. On 12/17/2009, Senator John Carey (R) voted yes to raise Ohio workers income taxes with HB 318. The law makers were kind enough to remove the part that would have reduced their pay from the bill. The Democrats and some Republicans will call this a freeze, but anyone who has had to pay state taxes due to not enough being taken out of their pay checks would consider this a raise.

With a down economy, more foreclosures, and higher unemployment I would think raising an Ohioans taxes would be the last thing I would see, especially leading up to an election year. Ohio ranks in the top five of tax burden states. Ohio also ranks in the top twelve for unemployment. It is coming to the point where you cannot tell the Democrats from the Republicans in any branch of government. It seems neither one is out to protect what the people want; lower taxes and smaller government with less intervention in our personal lives. It is time that we, the employers of these elected officials, let them know what we think!

Jacob Dawson, Wilmington

Teenage pregnancy

When mothers dream of their children's future, they may picture them in successful jobs, meeting the right person, marrying, and having children of their own. Becoming pregnant at 15 and dropping out of high school is not typically part of this image, and yet this is the reality that faces many of our teens here in Ohio. As a pediatrician in Columbus, I have seen children in middle

school that were already sexually active without their parents' knowledge. I have seen babies born to mothers still in high school, now left with the difficult job of raising a child without the help of the child's father. And, I have tested teenagers for sexually transmitted diseases.

While abstinence is the safest method to protect against sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, I think it unwise to not prepare those teenagers who decide to have sex. Sex education should present all the options to the students, along with the risks associated with use.

It should present an opportunity for open communication between teachers and students. There are questions that many children do not feel comfortable asking their parents regardless of how close the family is. Without sex education classes, these children go to the next most available resource, their friends. I'm sometimes amazed by the misinformation that is transmitted from student to student. Often these falsehoods lead the student to believe that they are safe from disease or pregnancy, putting them at greater risk than if they had all the facts.

Education alone is not enough to solve the problem of teenage pregnancy, but I believe a greater emphasis on sex education with open discussion of the methods of protection and the risks of sexual activity is a step in the right direction. Our legislators have the ability to pass The Act for Our Children's Future which will allow these important matters to be addressed.

Kyla Driest M.D., Columbus

Childhood obesity

As a pediatrician in Columbus, I am writing to express my concern about childhood obesity in Ohio. Currently, 1/3 of the U.S. childhood population is considered either obese or overweight, Ohio is no exception. Sadly, childhood obesity has become so commonplace that "The Fat Kid" is becoming a thing of the past. This is troubling because childhood obesity can lead to adulthood obesity and worse; diabetes and heart disease. Fortunately, obesity in general is preventable and correctable, especially if dealt with early in life.

One effective venue for implementing an anti-obesity campaign would be in the schools. Children spend 50% of their waking hours in school and consume at least one meal of the day there. Interventions need to encourage kids to eat right, snack less and exercise more. Kids should be encouraged to exercise for at least 30 minutes a day in Gym class. This will help form solid exercising habits early, which can later be carried into adult life. Vending machines containing pop and candy need to be removed from schools. Kids will eat better if they have access to better choices. With that in mind offering healthier options at lunch would also be beneficial.

Programs with schools could also be used to give parents better access to information about their child's nutritional health. Not all families have access to the health field, but most have access to schools. Schools could monitor children's Body Mass Indexes (BMIs) and report to parents when numbers became concerning. That would also be an excellent time to counsel parents on healthy eating recommendations for their kids. After all, most parents want what is best for their kids, but often need a helpful hand to point them in the right direction. Today Ohio legislators have an opportunity to take action on this matter by passing "The Healthy Choices For Healthy Children Act".

Justin Kahn M.D., Hilliard

Teachers' personal information

We fully support the OEA in its position that teacher home addresses and personal emails should not be considered public records. What the Dispatch overlooks is that private school teachers hold licenses and are also affected by this demand for their home addresses to be made public. Private school teachers are not employed by the taxpayers and are private employees, not public servants.

While there is a legitimate interest of the public in knowing teacher names, school addresses, and licensure status, there is not a compelling public interest in lessening their expectation of privacy in their own homes. The vast majority of teachers are decent, caring individuals who already are subject to rigorous professional conduct standards. Let's not add to the stress and burden of the many who do a wonderful job by releasing their home (as opposed to their place of employment information) in fear of the few who engage in professional misconduct. There are strong laws to deal with this.

Karin H. O'Neil

Ohio Association of Independent Schools

Sunbury

Today's Democrats

I am a Republican and conservative, but came from a family of mainly democrats. I ask my self, would my father and grandparents be a part of what the democrat party has turned into. The democrat party in the '40s and '50s stood for helping low and middle income citizens find jobs. It stood for strong national defense. It stood for traditional values- God, strong economy and minimal taxes. Truman ended world war II, Kennedy cut taxes in a recession to get the economy going. Kennedy stood up to the USSR in the Cuban missile crisis. Somewhere after JFK the party of my father started to change from a Judeo-Christian party to a party of victims and expanding entitlements. The party of my Father is now a party of taxation, the party of contempt of country and religion and now the party of socialism. Look at who leads this party of my father, Nancy Pelosi, Barney Frank, Harry Reid, and yes, Obama. If alive today my father would say, "this is no longer my party"..

Dick Alexander, Pickerington

©2010, The Columbus Dispatch, Reproduction prohibited