

# KeizerOpinion

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## Expensive week in Salem

This has been an expensive couple weeks for you in the Oregon legislature. Despite record amounts of revenue, the majority party has focused on getting more money. First from large corporations and having failed at that, turned to those who do not have the means to defend themselves: small businesses. The Oregon Constitution clearly states that any law that would raise revenue must be passed by a 3/5 majority of the legislature. This session, that would mean that at least one Republican in both the House and the Senate would have to vote with all of the Democrats to raise revenue. Instead of following the Constitution, the majority party moved forward with House Bill 2060, a bill to raise revenue from small businesses—and they chose to pass it without any Republican votes because they said it only “removed tax breaks” instead of raising revenue. This was based on the opinion of one attorney in the Capitol.



from the capitol  
By BILL POST

House also passed another controversial bill last week—HB3464. This bill seeks to restrict the ability of state and local agencies, including law enforcement, to inquire about an individual’s immigration status. The bill specifically prohibits public agencies from disclosing information to the federal government except in certain circumstances. As someone who was elected by you to represent House District 25 and who swore an oath to uphold both the Oregon and United States Constitutions, I find this bill very offensive—our nation is one of laws, not lawlessness.

I firmly believe that America is and will continue to be a nation of immigrants—but we have clear laws and procedures for our immigration process and those need to be followed by those who would come to build a new life in our amazing nation. Passing laws like HB3464 is a cheap way to score political points, not the way to thoughtfully create laws for our state and nation.

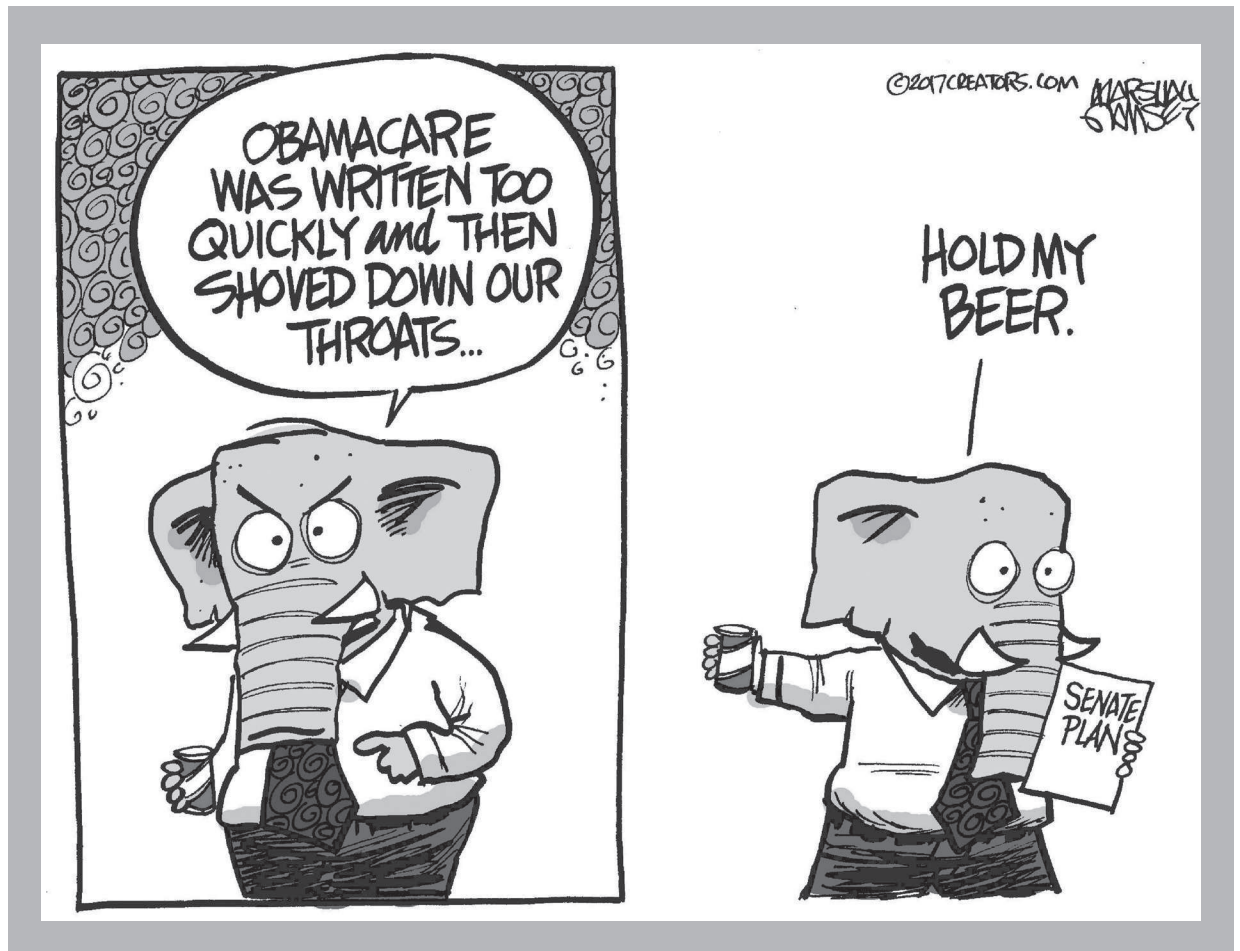
On a more positive note, one of the bills I was happy to cosponsor, HB2732, recently went into effect. This bill allows a passerby to break a window to free a child or pet left in a hot vehicle. During the heat wave last weekend, at least one dog was already rescued from a hot car because this bill was passed. As we go into the summer, remember if you see a kid or pet trapped in a hot car, you can do something about it.

(Bill Post represents House District 25. He can be reached at 503-986-1425 or via email at rep.bill-post@state.or.us.)

For small businesses with less than 10 employees—which, across the state, that size makes up over 80 percent of our businesses, and in Newberg it’s 91 percent—this is a huge deal.

HB2060 combined with HB 2391, the health insurance premium tax on small business would make a total of \$341 million raised in new small business taxes in the past two weeks. At some point, government must learn to live within its means, not keep squeezing money out of Oregonians who are just trying to pursue their dreams and who create the majority of the jobs in our state.

In addition to passing taxes the



## The big lies about health care

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

To succeed in gutting health coverage for millions of Americans, Senate Republican leaders need to get a series of lies accepted as truth. Journalists and other neutral arbiters must resist the temptation to report these lies as just a point of view. A lie is a lie.

Lie One: *Democrats and progressives are unwilling to work with Republicans and conservatives on this issue.*

“If we went and got the single greatest health care plan in the history of the world, we would not get one Democrat vote,” President Trump told an Iowa crowd recently.

In fact, Democrats, including President Obama when he was in office, have said repeatedly they would like to work with Republicans to improve the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer’s office put out a list of such offers, including a June 15 letter from Schumer to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell calling for a cross-party meeting to “find a way to make health care more affordable and accessible.”

But Democrats can never be complicit in a wholesale repeal of Obamacare that would take health coverage away from millions of Americans.

This first lie is important because it rationalizes the Republican claim that the bill has to be draconian because it can’t pass without support from the party’s most right-wing legislators. “This is not the best possible bill,” said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan. “It is the best bill possible under very difficult circumstances.”

But those “circumstances” have been created by the GOP itself. A

completely different coalition is available, but Republicans don’t want to activate it because they are hell-bent on repealing Obamacare. Why?

This brings us to Lie Two: *This bill is primarily about improving health care for American families.*

No, this effort is primarily about cutting taxes. When it comes to health care, the main thing the bill does is take money away from providing it to pay for the tax reductions it contains and for future bonanzas the Republicans have promised.

The tax cuts in this legislation alone would amount to some \$700 billion over a decade, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. About \$33 billion of this would go to tax cuts conservatively averaging \$7 million every year to each of the 400 highest-income families in the country. What could \$33 billion buy? The CBPP reports it would be enough to pay for the expansion of Medicaid in Nevada, West Virginia, Arkansas and Alaska. Talk about income redistribution.

A telltale: One of the main Republican complaints about Obamacare has been that the deductibles and co-pays under ACA policies are too high. But the Republican bill only makes this problem worse.

As *The New York Times’* Margot Sanger-Katz wrote: “Many middle-income Americans would be expected to pay a larger share of their income to purchase health insurance that covers a smaller share of their care.”

If this bill were truly about health care, Republicans would take all the tax cuts out and use that money to

ease the pain their bill would cause. But they won’t, because the tax cuts are the thing that matters to them.

Lie Three: *The Senate bill is a “compromise.”*

Really? Between whom? The House wants to destroy Obamacare quickly, the Senate a bit more slowly while also cutting Medicaid more steeply over time. This is only a “compromise” between two very right-wing policies.

Imagine you are negotiating with two creditors who say you owe them \$1,000 and you insist you owe nothing. The first creditor wants the money quickly. The second says you can take a bit little longer, but you have to pay \$1,200—and he has the nerve to call this a “compromise.” Nowhere in this deal is your position taken into account. Welcome to the logic of the Senate health care bill.

I hope I never have to write about Lie Four, which would be Republican senators who surely know better—including Susan Collins, Dean Heller, Lisa Murkowski, Jeff Flake, Shelley Moore Capito and Rob Portman—justifying their votes for this monstrosity by claiming that it’s the best they could do.

Actually, only by killing this bill would these senators open the way for reasonable fixes to the ACA. Do they really want to say someday that one of their most important votes in the Senate involved taking health care away from millions of Americans? I would like to believe they are too decent for that (and Heller, for one, criticized the bill on Friday). I hope I’m not lying to myself.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

## Anyone can run for council

To the Editor:  
This is in response to Lyndon Zaitz’s editorial of June 23 (*You can’t force people*). I agree with most of his comments and opinions in regard to the issue of “inclusivity.”

One of the themes in the editorial is you can’t legislate what people think or who they like. I totally agree with that.

There are standards, however, that the city must follow. They are called the law. To my knowledge the city has followed the law in its charter, ordinances, and resolutions.

Where I take issue with the editor is where he laments that while one fifth of the population of Keizer may be Hispanic only one Hispanic in 35 years has ever been elected to

the City Council. He says that is “sad.”

The reason only one Hispanic has ever been elected is because only one Hispanic has ever run for election. That is the “sad” element here.

There may be various reasons why Hispanics do not seek election and that would be an interesting discussion. However, assuming a Hispanic meets the requirements of office like every other candidate must do, there would be no reason they could not be elected.

Jerry McGee  
Keizer

## letters

### Share your opinion

Email a guest opinion or a letter to the editor by noon Tuesday.

Email to:  
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## Sugar still makes up much of our diet

By GENE H. MCINTYRE

Appropriately, summer begins with an “S” as do words we associate with it, such as staycation, saddle sore, shorts, sunglasses, shells, sand and sandals. Of course, this list may be expanded by you. Also, there’s soda, which is also associated with summer stuff.

Sodas contain sugar and lots of it, contributing to the average American’s consumption of it at 130 pounds per year. Which reminds me of a historical fact regarding sugar use in the U.S., as rationing was imposed by our government during World War II, starting in 1942. Supplies of it were cut or burned off in Pacific cane fields, denying it to the enemy while the war effort itself required sugar to make many things from antiseptics to explosives.

Sugar for war was exemplified in a *Smithsonian* magazine article where it was reported that firing a large five-gun salvo used up the amount of sugar harvested from a full acre of it. Meanwhile, on the home front, cook books urged all chefs to sweeten cakes and pastries with the syrup remaining from canning fruit.

Back in time, Douglas Owsley, an anthropologist with the Museum of Natural History, reports on the wife of a colonial Maryland’s governor who passed away 300 years ago and apparently was able to use a lot of sugar. You see, when her remains were exhumed it was found that, since she was a wealthy woman with lead coffin and fine burial wearing apparel, she had lost 20 teeth, with those remaining down to root stubs. The exhumed bodies of her contemporaries pos-

sessed most of their teeth because they couldn’t afford a sugar habit.

Fact is, Americans have always taken as much sugar as they could get their mouths on. When George Washington was president in the late 1700s, the average American annually consumed about six pounds of sugar. That number rose as sugar beet growing got underway while later the U.S., in 1876, signed a treaty with the then-sovereign kingdom of Hawaii for sugar cane. Incidentally, sodas increased a lot in popularity with or without homemade rum during Prohibition.

Nowadays, as we all know, sugar’s in abundance and used (along with plenty of salt) in almost all prepared foods Americans eat or drink. There’s probably no exaggeration in stating that an encyclopedia’s entire “S” volume

could be given over to a discussion of sugar uses in modern-day U.S.A.

Suffice it to comment in educating terms here that Brazil and India grow the most sugar beets with the U.S. in fifth place, they being grown here and elsewhere as an underground root crop in eleven U.S. states, including California, Oregon and Washington. Sugar cane thrives in warm, moist, tropical climates found in the American states of Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana and parts of Texas.

In the mean time, never fear: Should we in the U.S. ever run out of drinkable water, sodas can be made with a carbonating agent and fruit juice. Addendum to life: it has always been true in all humankind civilizations that death and taxes were the only absolute certainties. Nowadays, at least in our country, with the advent of excessive sugar use, we can realistically add dentists and dentures to that list.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

## guest column

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