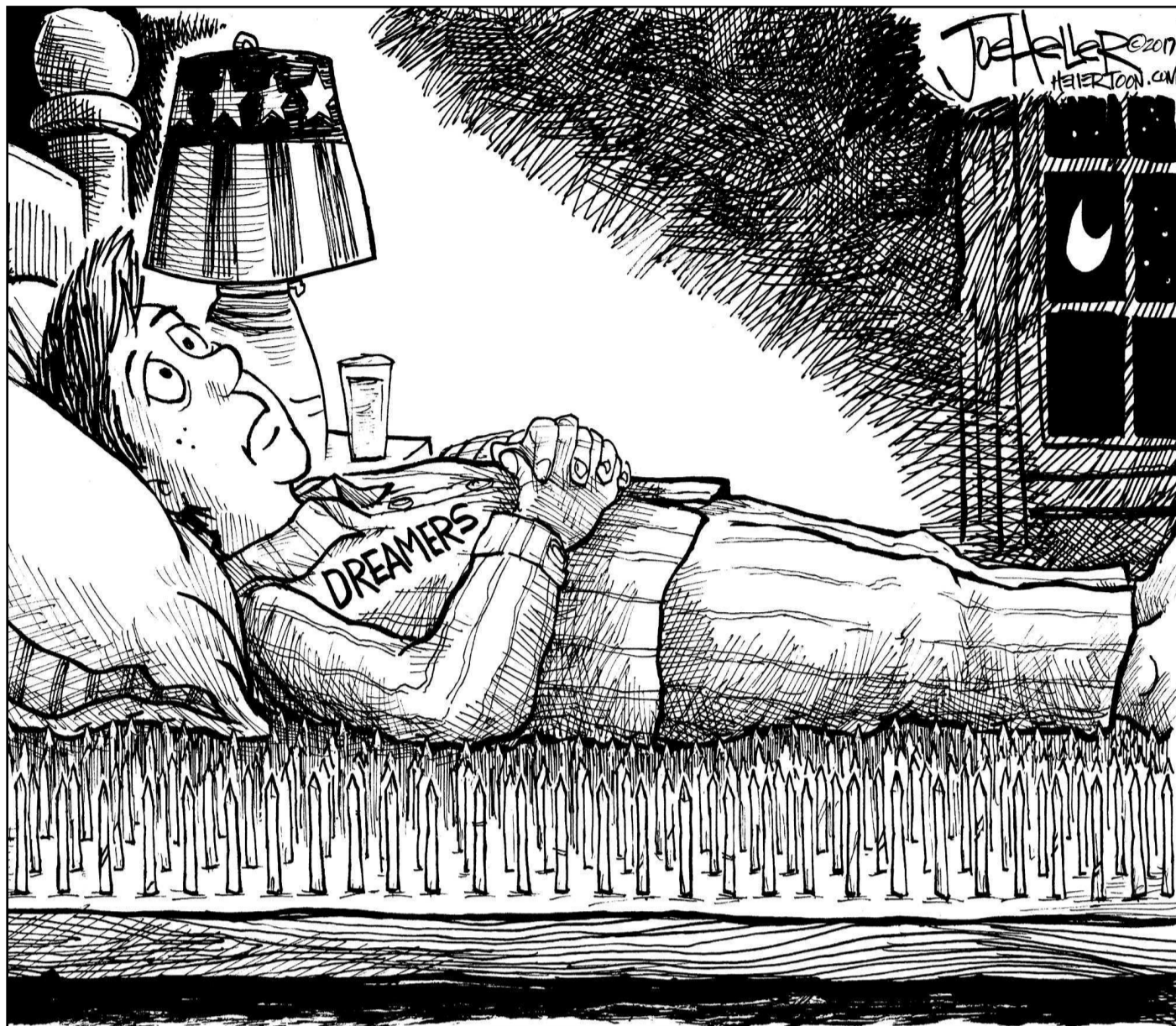


Siuslaw News  
P.O. Box 10  
Florence, OR 97439

# Opinion

## The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



## Tomorrow night, come share your thoughts about DACA

It's no small irony that as the world has embraced the overwhelming force of globalization that began as far back as 1994 with the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), many middle-class Americans have begun to feel more cornered as mechanization, international competition and outsourcing have resulted in vanishing jobs and stagnant wages.

The result is an underlying frustration, and at times outright anger, aimed at placing blame.

It's no surprise that some of that frustration has been aimed at one particular group known as Dreamers — members of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. These individuals arrived in the U.S. before age

16 with the help of undocumented illegal immigrants — in most cases their parents.

The DACA program, established in 2012, makes those individuals eligible for a work permit, renewable every two

years, and not subject to the same deportation rules as other undocumented immigrants. It also requires them to be in school or have a high school degree, a record free of serious misdemeanors or felonies, or be honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces.

Most recent estimates suggest 800,000 DACA recipients have been approved since 2012 out of an estimated 1.7 million applicants (Pew Research Center).

As of Oct. 5, renewal

requests for individuals eligible for DACA status ended, sparking sharp debate of the administration's decision to rescind the executive order issued by President Obama and force a slow-moving

Congress to introduce legislation in its place.

While many agree that comprehensive immigration reform is needed at the Congressional level, in the meantime as many as 1,400 DACA recipients a day are expected to lose their status.

What makes this topic particularly difficult is that many Americans, while they may want serious immigration reform, don't agree with deporting these individuals or separating families — with 58

percent wanting to keep the DACA program (American Enterprise Institute).

This tug-of-war on the current fabric of America stems from a basic belief that our nation's roots stem from a diverse soil.

So how do we address the DACA question constructively?

Tomorrow night (Oct. 19) at City Lights Cinemas, we will be holding a community discussion addressing that question beginning at 7 p.m. (See page A3) Questions will be drawn randomly from the audience, and can be dropped off here at Siuslaw News, or brought tomorrow night. There will be a panel and audience discussion with the hope of walking away with a better understanding of the issue and each other's points of view.

I hope you'll join us and the community in a discussion of where to go from here with DACA.

### From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

## LETTERS

### REGULATION ISN'T ANSWER TO GUN VIOLENCE

Regarding Bill Durst's "Support Ammo Regulation" (Oct. 11), approximately half of all gun owners target shoot.

There are approximately four times as many gun owners as hunters.

No one I know who target shoots has any intention of killing anything.

Regulating drugs has not solved the drug problem; it would not work with ammunition either.

A firearm is no more lethal than any number of other household items. It is the evil heart that murders.

One cannot legislate evil from the human heart.

— Ian Eales  
Florence

### NATIONAL ANTHEM AND OUR FLAG

It seems to me that President Trump's divisive tweets scolding NFL owners and players for kneeling down or locking arms when our National Anthem is being played — along with more tweets — are uninformed as usual.

It all started with Colin Kaepernick's kneeling down during the playing of the National Anthem at a 49ers game in protest of racial inequality. Trump didn't blow his tweet trumpet until different black NFL players around the league knelt down in support of Kaepernick — prompting Trump to tweet about NFL owners needing to fire players (all black) who engaged in the protest, and how fans should boycott games for the disrespect of our flag.

There is no argument in playing the National Anthem, America the Beautiful, Stars and Stripes for Ever or our military songs like "Caisson," "Anchors Away" or the "Wild Blue Yonder."

These are songs that express our love of country and our military. Now let us step back in time.

I think it was the second game of the 1918 World Series, between the Boston Red Sox and the Chicago Cubs, that our National Anthem was played at the seventh-inning stretch.

It seemed that people liked it and were singing along so it continued through the series.

Fast forward to today. I have no idea when the anthem was once again played

at baseball games, or in any other professional football or basketball game. I believe that the anthem used to be played *before* players went onto the field.

My understanding is that it wasn't until after 9/11 that the Department of Defense began paying for color guards, halftime displays of military jets flying overhead and large flags covering the playing field during regular games at halftime — and specifically the Super Bowl — as a way to increase patriotism and recruitment for the armed forces.

— Win Jolley  
Florence

### DRAIN THE SWAMP, CREATE A CESSPOOL

Did Donald Trump break environmental laws when he turned the "swamp" into a cesspool?

The contamination seems to be seeping into every area of our government and the smell is so bad it has been noted throughout the world.

— Karen Mahoney  
Florence

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry, or letters from outside our readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

### POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

Send letters to:  
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

## WHERE TO WRITE

**Pres. Donald Trump**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461  
TTY/TDD Comments:  
202-456-6213  
www.whitehouse.gov

**Gov. Kate Brown**  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St.  
Salem, Ore. 97301-4047  
Governor's Citizens' Rep.  
Message Line:  
503-378-4582  
www.oregon.gov/gov

**U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden**  
221 Dirksen Senate Office  
Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-5244  
541-431-0229  
www.wyden.senate.gov

**U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley**  
313 Hart Senate Office  
Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3753/FAX: 202-  
228-3997  
541-465-6750  
www.merkley.senate.gov

**U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio**  
(4th Dist.)  
2134 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-6416  
541-269-2609  
541-465-6732  
www.defazio.house.gov

**State Sen. Arnie Roblan**  
(Dist. 5)  
900 Court St. NE - S-417  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1705  
FAX: 503-986-1080  
Email: Sen.ArnieRoblan@  
state.or.us

**State Rep. Caddy McKeown**  
(Dist. 9)  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1409  
Email: rep.caddymckeown  
@state.or.us

**West Lane County  
Commissioner  
Jay Bozievich**  
125 E. Eighth St.  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541-682-4203  
FAX: 541-682-4616  
Email:  
Jay.Bozievich@  
co.lane.or.us

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James Rand  
Jenna Bartlett  
Ned Hickson  
Erik Chalhoub

Oregon Group Publisher 541-265 8571  
Publisher, ext. 318  
Editor, ext. 313  
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353  
Email: echalhoub@register-pajaronian.com  
Marketing Director, ext. 326  
Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
Production Supervisor  
Press Manager

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