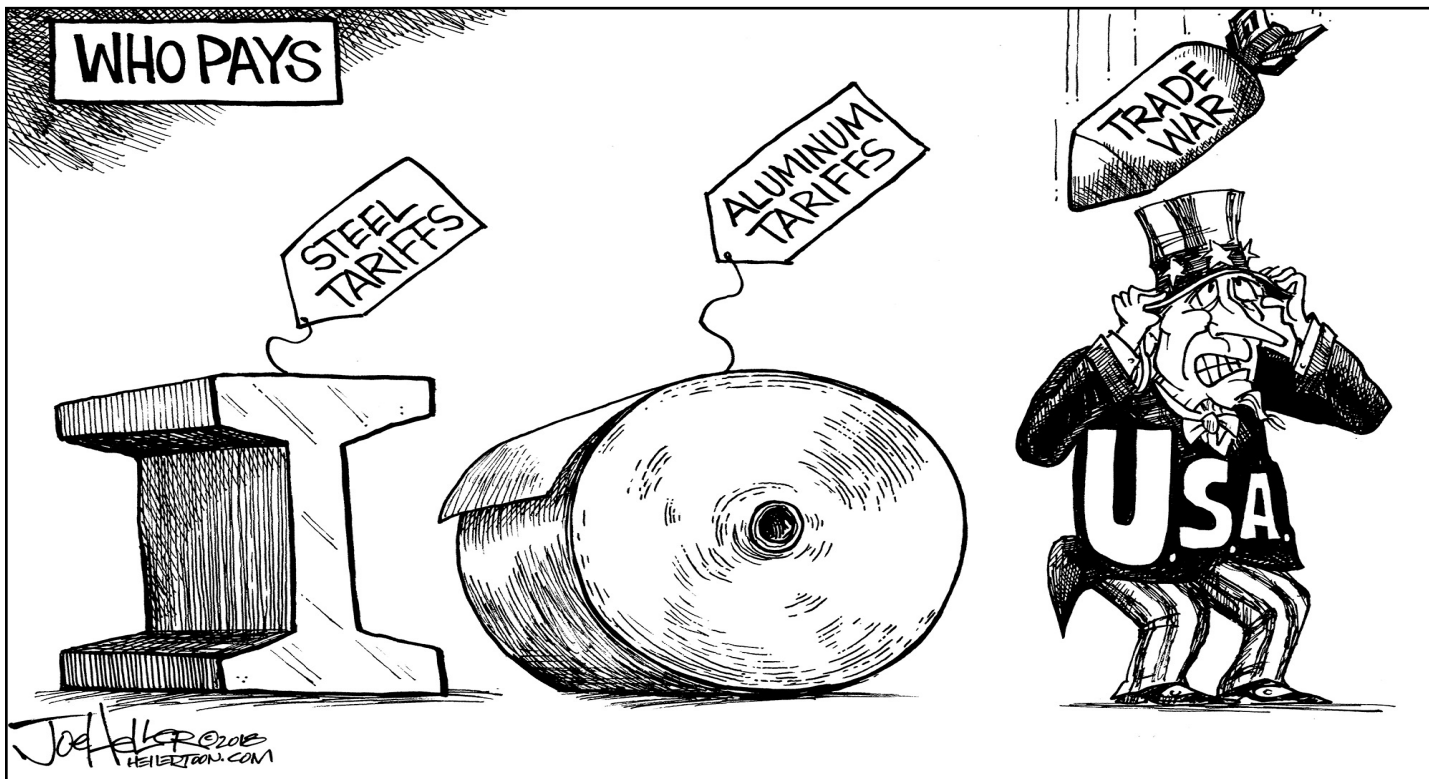


Siuslaw News  
P.O. Box 10  
Florence, OR 97439

# 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.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



## Separating families 'cruel punishment' under 8th Amendment

**(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and the exchange of perspectives.)**

For those who appear continuously baffled at the anger and disgust expressed by others at the President, the current immigration situation is a good example of why.

There have long been unaccompanied minors entering the U.S., which was addressed by President George Bush in 2008 with a policy of releasing those children to the "least restrictive environment".

Then in 2014, President Barack Obama faced a humanitarian crisis at the border as an unprecedented number of children fled increasing violence in Central American countries. There were incidents of children in cage-like settings. However they were quickly met with aid from a variety of U.S. charities.

When the children came with their families, Obama tried detaining them together but it was deemed illegal to hold kids in jail-like settings — another long-time U.S. policy. In light of these laws and rulings, families seeking asylum were

released pending a court hearing. These are technically legal immigrants until officially designated otherwise. That is how the system works.

This legal policy has been ridiculed

**GUEST VIEWPOINT**  
**By Sandy Todd**  
Florence

and denigrated by a number of self-proclaimed "patriots," including the Attorney General Jeff Sessions, with terms like "catch-and-release," as if they were talking about animals rather than people.

Fast forward to 2018: Though there is no policy that requires families to be separated, some 2,000 minors have been placed in custody in the last six weeks. According to a report by Health and Human Services, at that pace there will be 8,000 more children separated from their parents by Aug. 1.

Although some of these families are entering the country illegally, some who do not go to a legal border crossing can end up receiving refugee or asylum status in the end.

Regardless, the oldest legal document

in the country is right there as a reference point specifically for this kind of situation. It's called The Eighth Amendment, which prohibits the federal government from "...Imposing cruel and unusual punishments," whether a punishment is deserved or not. I can't think of anything much crueler than separating families and housing children in cages for an indefinite period.

Though this decision is opposed by 66 percent of Americans, our president fans the flames by placing the blame solely on Democrats. There is absolutely nothing to indicate this decision came from or is supported by Democrats.

This is just the latest act in the ongoing immigration battle, and one of the reasons many individuals began advocating for "sanctuary cities" many months ago. No decent person should want their local public officials caught up in this kind of human rights violation, nor should they want their tax dollars supporting it.

The only way to end this tyrannical act is for the 66 percent to call their senators and representatives, *now*, and tell them that separating families at the border violates The Eighth Amendment and must be stopped now.

## LETTERS

### POLICY IS NEITHER

#### CHRISTIAN NOR AMERICAN

As a mother, grandmother and human being, the treatment of refugees seeking asylum on our southern border hurts my heart. As a retired mental health professional, I know that the children and parents will experience life-long trauma from this horrific experience.

I refer you to just one of the well-known experts in the treatment of trauma, the psychiatrist, Dr. Bessel Van Der Kolk, and his book: "The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma."

Although recent comments from the Trump administration would have us believe this policy is somehow sanctioned by the Bible, this policy is neither Christian nor American. We all need to wake up, open our eyes and hearts, contact our members of Congress, and stop this cruelty.

We are better than this.

"Those who are without compassion cannot see what is seen with the eyes of compassion." —Thich Nhat Hanh

—Barbara Crumrine  
Florence

#### WE ARE A NATION OF LAWS

If you cross our border without the proper permission, you are *illegal*.

This is not an opinion; it is a fact.

This has been the law for many years. When seeking asylum, you apply at the American Embassy in your country of origin. As for children being separated from their parents, this is done to avoid traumatizing them by going through the process their parents are subject to for breaking the law.

It should be noted that none of this need happen if the parents acted in ac-

cordance with our governing laws.

Using Nazi terminology to enhance opinion just makes those who do so look ignorant and reactionary — nor does it have anything to do in supporting an opinion.

I believe many of the pictures and reports being shown on TV are from the previous administration because, like I said, this has been the law for a long time. Yes, it still goes on today because the law has not changed.

Democrats blame Republicans and Republicans blame Democrats.

Truth is they are *both* to blame. But to blame law enforcement for enforcing the law is just juvenile.

For anyone really feeling despaired, ask yourself how come we are just now hearing about this on a daily basis when the same thing was happening under President Obama?

Or is that too inconvenient a truth?

—David Eckhardt  
Florence

### I FIND NO HUMOR IN

#### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Concerning Kim Jong-un, the following quote came from our president during an interview with Fox News on Friday:

"He's [Kim] the head of a country, and I mean he's the *strong* head. Don't let anyone think anything different. He speaks and his people sit up at attention. I want *my* people to do the same..."

So the President of the United States praises one of the worst despots on earth today and indicates he wishes he could have the same power over his people.

OK, President Trump, just have a few rivals murdered, build several concentration camps and fill them up with as

many Democrats and disloyal Republicans as you can catch.

While you are at it, take control of all news media and shut down the Internet. And make a few well-known people "disappear" and *then* you will surely have people sitting up at attention.

Oh but wait! Now he says he was just joking.

I fail to discern the humor.

—Jimmie Zinn  
Florence

### ILLEGAL IS ILLEGAL. PERIOD.

I must respond to Linda Olsen's recent Letter to the Editor, "Define Our Country Based On Principal of Decency" (June 16).

First, I do not understand how anyone can say, "These people are not illegals." They entered this country without permission — so they are without question *illegal*.

Period.

Secondly, when she asked, "How can we allow this inhumane practice of separation of families to continue?" she obviously is not aware, nor did I hear her complain at that time, when it is a matter of record that President Obama separated parent from child during his time in office.

Nor did she call the ICE agents Obama's private Gestapo at that time, or mention the fact that many of the so-called "parents" are not the children's real parents but are using children as pawns to gain entry into this wonderful country.

It is amazing how one can look at something through rose colored glasses on one hand, then look at the same thing as causing black eyes.

—Tony Cavarno  
Florence

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2018 © Siuslaw News

## Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, Ore. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to [PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com](mailto:PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com).

Jenna Bartlett  
Ned Hickson  
Erik Chalhoub

Publisher, ext. 318  
Editor, ext. 313  
Consulting Editor 831-761-7353  
[echalhou@register-pajaronian.com](mailto:echalhou@register-pajaronian.com)  
Marketing Director, ext. 326  
Office Supervisor, ext. 312  
Production Supervisor  
Press Manager

### DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Boxed and display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

### NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$76; 6-month in-county, \$52; 10-weeks subscription, \$23; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$99; 6-month out-of-county, \$65; 10-weeks subscription, \$29; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$125; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$71.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.  
Website and E-Edition: [TheSiuslawNews.com](http://TheSiuslawNews.com)

### 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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News 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 partisanism 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.

Email letters to:

[nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto: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](http://www.whitehouse.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](http://www.defazio.house.gov)

**OREGON 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](http://www.oregon.gov/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@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.Arnieroblan@oregonlegislature.gov)

**U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN**  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-5244  
541-431-0229  
[www.wyden.senate.gov](http://www.wyden.senate.gov)

**STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN**  
(DIST. 9)  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-1409  
Email: [rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us](mailto:rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us)

**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](http://www.merkley.senate.gov)

**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](mailto:Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us)