

**Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
 116 N. Sixth St.  
 Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

# 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)



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**Letters to the Editor Policy**

The Sentinel 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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside The Sentinel 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:**

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## Time to end opposition for opposition's sake

both Democratic and Republican leaders in Congress to "oppose everything" the administration of the time proposes. This includes our own Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, who told Politico (Jan. 30, 2017) that he would automatically

continues the kind of partisan politics that have turned the wheels of government into the rusted grind of rickety gears that Americans have lost faith in.

Perhaps more importantly, this kind of "obstructionist" men-

war is to divide and conquer. Without question, we are already a nation divided. Our representatives in Congress must put aside their need to conquer each other and remember that the true casualties of this kind of political war are those who they are supposed to be representing.

A little more than 200 years ago, our nation opposed tyranny in order to pursue the dream of being free. It was part of a necessary step toward independence. Our forefathers were mature enough to recognize that opposition itself wasn't enough to secure our nation, but that it would take perspective and understanding to help us grow as individuals and a people united.

As we enter the early part of our nation's own "terrible twos," we need to remember that fundamental truth.

Because unlike that stage we must deal with as parents, in this case we really do need to act as if the future of the world depended on it...

**From the Managing Editor's Desk**  
*Ned Hickson*

"filibuster any and all Supreme Court Justice nominees Trump puts forward."

Keep in mind that it wasn't long before that when Republican leadership in our nation's capitol did something similar by refusing to consider President Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, for the very same appointment.

And the beat goes on. While I agree that any nominee seeking congressional approval should be scrutinized for their qualifications, to enter into that process with a preconceived conclusion and public promise to automatically deny approval merely

tality also runs the risk of delegitimizing future challenges within our system of checks and balances when they could matter most.

Wherever you stand on the impeachment inquiry currently underway, this isn't the time to overreach or grandstand simply for the sake of being in opposition or playing it safe with party politics. Americans are divided because their representatives in Congress have allowed themselves to become divided simply on the merits of which side of the aisle they happen to sit on.

One of the most basic techniques of winning a

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