

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

nhickson@cg sentinel.com

## Finding common ground through common needs

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

death.  
When I was a young man in the 1960s, Ronald Reagan became governor of California and then President of the United States. He recorded an album named after its theme, "Socialized Medicine Is Socialism."

potential alternatives must be rejected without consideration.

However, keeping with the idea of bringing people together by their respect for each other's common need for good health and a secure life, it is troubling to imagine a world

found affect as being a training ground for seeing our commonality with all people by promoting an appreciation for a common welfare shared by all.

In other words, a universal healthcare system is itself a medicine that can cure the language of enmity and opposition by changing our habits of mind into something better: Wishing for others what we wish for ourselves.

Just as we engaged in a great project to fight fascism in the 1940s and to get to the moon in the 1960s, we will find the social spirit of America uplifted and made radiant by the challenge and excitement of creating a system of universal health for Americans.

It could be the training wheels we need for turning our faces to each other and the world with a smile of goodwill and willingness rather than opposition and enmity.

### GUEST VIEWPOINT

By Leo Rivers  
Cottage Grove

Needless to say, the word "socialism" was a word that had been turned into a political bogeyman by equating socialism with the great tyranny of the Soviet Union.

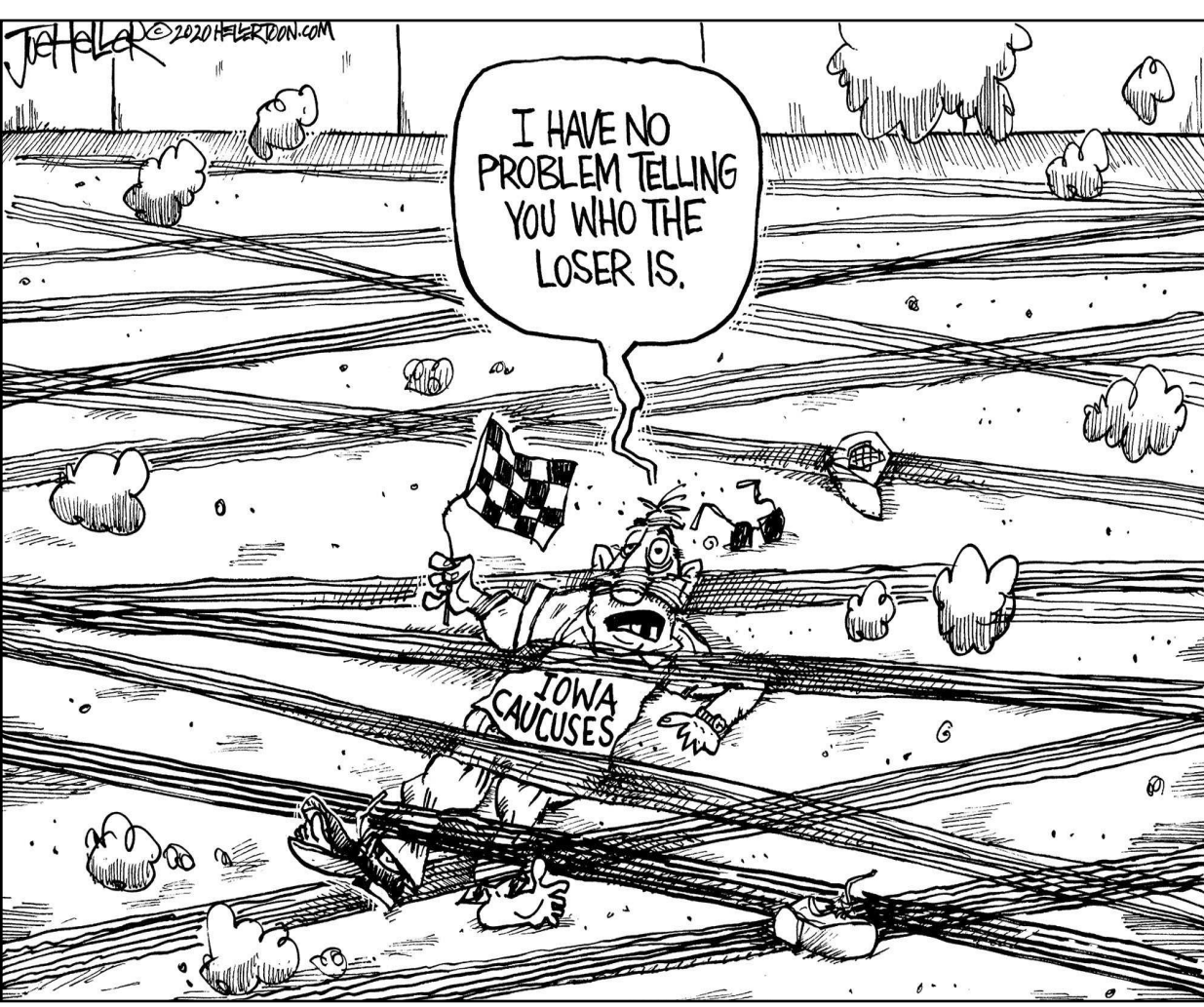
At the same time, it did not point out that there are many forms of socialism that already exist in our country and that they all have their own unique advantages and disadvantages.

But if you want to win an argument easily, you pretend there are no alternatives and that any

in which you only have as much security as you can pay for.

There is a commonwealth — or common welfare — that allows an opportunity for a universal healthcare system and more. It's not just a way of making sure everyone has access to an education and medicine, it is also a much more financially efficient way to improve a health care system that currently only impacts those who have already fallen ill.

It can have a pro-



### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR REPS

#### Oregon state representatives

• **Sen. Floyd Prozanski**  
District 4 State Senator  
PO Box 11511  
Eugene, Ore. 97440  
Phone: 541-342-2447  
Email: sen.floydprozanski@state.or.us

• **Rep. Cedric Hayden**  
Republican District 7 State Representative  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Ore. 97301  
Phone: 503-986-1407  
Website: www.leg.state.or.us/hayden  
Email: rep.cedrichayden@state.or.us

#### Oregon federal representatives

• **Rep. Peter DeFazio**  
(House of Representatives)  
405 East 8th Ave.  
#2030  
Eugene, Ore. 97401  
Email: defazio.house.gov/contact/email-peter  
Phone: 541-465-6732

• **Sen. Ron Wyden**  
405 East 8th Ave., Suite 2020  
Eugene, Ore. 97401  
Email: wyden.senate.gov  
Phone: (541) 431-0229

• **Sen. Jeff Merkley**  
Email: merkley.senate.gov  
Phone: 541-465-6750

## Cottage Grove Sentinel

541-942-3325

### Administration

Jenna Bartlett, Group Publisher

Gary Manly, General Manager... Ext. 1207  
gmanly@cg sentinel.com

Gerald Santana, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1216  
gsantana@cg sentinel.com

Veronica Brinkley, Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1205  
vbrinkley@cg sentinel.com

Carla Skeel, Inside Multi-Media Sales Consultant... Ext. 1203  
csommers@cg sentinel.com

### Editorial

Ned Hickson, Managing Editor... 541-902-3520  
nhickson@cg sentinel.com

Damien Sherwood, Lead Reporter... Ext. 1212  
dsherwood@cg sentinel.com

Nick Snyder, Sports/Community News Reporter... Ext. 1204  
nsnyder@cg sentinel.com

### Customer Service

Meg Fringer, Office Manager, Legals, Classifieds... Ext. 1200  
mfringer@cg sentinel.com

### Production

Ron Annis, Production Supervisor... Ext. 1215  
graphics@cg sentinel.com

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