

**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)



## LETTERS

### COULD STATES HAVE DONE BETTER PROTECTING THE ELDERLY FROM COVID-19?

Many folks argue the unborn are not worthy of protection. Few, though, would argue the elderly are not worthy of care and protection.

Analogous to abortion, senicide is the intentional killing of the unwanted elderly. Some say this happened when New York's Governor Cuomo forbade family and friends from visiting their elderly in nursing homes, stating they might bring the virus in with them.

Yet Cuomo forced those same nursing homes to accept confirmed COVID-positive patients in the back door. The results were predictable: over 15,000 elderly died.

Governor Cuomo waited almost two months to rescind his order, but the damage was done. He and his team then hid the actual number of elderly COVID deaths until after the election because he did not want the Trump administration to use it against them.

In Oregon, nursing homes reportedly account for 44 percent of the 40,443 COVID deaths.

A staggering number. States pay as much as half of

nursing home costs through Medicare, so these deaths are a substantial financial windfall. A combined savings of hundreds of millions of dollars monthly.

Could states have done better?

—Bob Hepar  
 Cottage Grove

### WORTHY OF OFFICE?

The House impeachment crew was thorough — yet restrained — in assembling a mass of revealing detail.

They could not have done better.

The public, now with truly enhanced access to many of the details surrounding the basis, background and goals of this riot, can assess — or reassess — their initial response.

One question to ask: "Why is the former President worthy of office?"

I ask that question as a minor former defense attorney whose most memorable, pleasing and comparable case was successfully representing a junkyard dog who at least made an effort to stop the thieves from climbing the gate and breaking into the salvage yard.

—Randy Lawson  
 Cottage Grove

### BOTTLE FEES WITHOUT THE REFUND IS WRONG

I find myself very frustrated with the fact that while I am charged .10 cents for every can or bottle I purchase (charged as an incentive to recycle), there is nowhere to recycle.

First, the ridiculous rule of limiting it to 144 cans per day is archaic.

Second, the state-run recycling machines are almost always out of order and are not maintained.

Third, the few stores that used to allow you to bring one bag of 144 cans no longer allow it.

How is it legal for the state of Oregon to charge us CRV when they refuse to refund it through recycling?

On a good day, it's extremely difficult at best. Not all recycling machines accept all cans, the machines frequently break and lines are long.

Is anything being done about this?

I voted for Kate Brown once. I won't be voting for her twice.

—Marnie Stravens  
 Cottage Grove

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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.

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Periodicals postage paid at Cottage Grove, Oregon.  
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