

Letters

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Center has received funding through the Oregon Tax Check-off program for many years. These funds were passed from the State through the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to agencies like ours.

Every time a taxpayer marked off the box to help domestic violence victims, it provided funds for the many services so desperately needed by our clients. These services include housing in our 26-bed shelter, The Starting Place, 24-hour crisis line response, outreach, counseling, support groups, information and referrals, etc.

This is the first year that Stop Domestic & Sexual Violence will be rotated off the front page of the Oregon Tax Form. In order to maintain some of the funding we'll be losing because of this change, please write Code 22 on your tax form. Please encourage others to do the same.

Your help in maintaining this funding is very much appreciated.

Jessica Halberg
Executive Director
Columbia County
Women's Resource Center

Writer thinks others don't need services

To the Editor:

During the month of December, I attended a debate in the Loowit Room. It was very interesting. The topic was on Measures 66 and 67. The vote concerning them will be on January 26th.

The two speakers FOR the measures tried to make them appear harmless and beneficial. They said big businesses should pay their fair share, and that it would increase from \$10 to a mere \$150. (Wow, a 15 times mark up.) The AGAINST speakers brought up the actual fact that Boise would have to pay \$100,000 a year. Not really fair at all! More job losses also.

The FOR speakers brought up terms like "Sustainable" communities (I was warned to beware of the word Sustainable, as it has a hidden meaning). They also said the legisla-

ture created these two measures to maintain the "status quo in these challenging times". The speakers kept reiterating the words, "we need Government Services." They threw in a couple stories for sympathy for their cause.

The speakers AGAINST the two measures, 66 and 67, spoke. I was impressed by their straight forward answers. No beating around the bush. They were well informed and had their facts straight. These are some of the quotes I wrote down that made a lot of sense: "Rather than a fight, this should be a search for truth." "Just because they want more money does not mean they need more money." "We are not prospering, and don't need to be taxed more." "The time to put the brakes on is now! Increasing taxes is what these two measures are really about!" "You should not raise taxes in a Recession. If anything, you should decrease them!" "We need to reprioritize the budget structure, and dial down tax increases." "Oregonians have put far too much trust in 'programs'."

"Bureaucracy is not the answer." "we are moving in the direction of Socialism, until they run out of everyone else's money!" "The state needs to cut back just like everyone else." "Real tax fairness means cut the budget, don't increase the taxes!" "Do you really want a government that can give you all you want. That kind of government call also take ALL you have!"

Pappy Yokum had a penny. A gambler said, "I'll flip you for that penny." Pappy said, "I don't want to flip for my penny." The gambler said, "Ah come on; if it lands on it's side, it's yours. If it stands on it's edge, it is mine!" They flipped the penny, it rolled, fell in a crack and stood on edge. "The penny is mine!" hollered the gambler. Pappy started to cry. "Oh you just want sympathy," said the gambler. Pappy answered, "No I don't, I just want my penny back."

This scenario relates to what measures 66 and 67 do. The taxpayer is Pappy, putting up his own money; which is most likely to fall into the crack. The gambler is those pushing to get

66 and 67 deceptively through, so they can keep Pappy's penny and run! Pappy, the taxpayer, will be left crying, wanting his penny back. It's mighty easy to get taxes added, but have you ever noticed, it is impossible to get them removed? Don't be Pappy! Vote NO on 66 and 67!

One thing I did not like about the debate, which also happened at the David Wu Town Hall meeting in St. Helens. Questions were not from the floor, and had to be written out. I asked, "What is ROP's real agenda, and would you be given a 'grant' from the increased taxes if 66 and 67 passed?" Surprise of surprises! They overlooked that question!

So now I ask YOU, the voter and the taxpayer, a question asked at the debate. "How do you feel about paying more taxes so someone else can receive all the benefits?" Stop this scam, vote No on 66 and 67!

Sincerely,

Marie Hatcher Scappoose

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