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Tuesday's letters to the editor

Monitor health votes

Now, we will learn about our legislators' real concerns about the people whom they purport to represent!

Bills to reform health insurance are going to be voted upon by the state Senate. Because the House voted to support insurance companies, the legislators are almost pardoned from giving themselves health-care benefits into infinity - almost.

Let's see what the senators who also gave themselves this package will do for the people of Michigan, in spite of all the pap that will, undoubtedly, be coming from groups like Aetna and United HealthCare.

This legislation will put a stop to some of the greatest abuses perpetrated on the insured by their companies, like jacking up rates when people actually do get sick and need insurance; refusing to insure a patient because of a pre-existing condition and more.

LSJ, please keep us informed on how the "pro-selves" legislators vote on this issue for others.

Pat Shalhoob
Williamston

End MSP deal

I have to agree with Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge.

This Joel Ferguson building costs way too much more than what the state now pays for the Michigan State Police headquarters.

I wonder how much dirty money Ferguson gave to Granholm's re-election campaign to land this pure money-maker for himself. Ferguson will be paid \$1 million every three months.

Get real! Michigan needs to live within its means, even if that means saying "no" to this dirty deal (that is the Democrats' doing).

Guess what, Mr. Ferguson? It's a "no deal."

Support Rep. Jones. Kill this deal before it costs too much money. Recall Ferguson (as Michigan

State University trustee) and Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

Ferguson is out of touch. He was one of the people who, over two years' time, voted to give MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon a total of \$105,000 in raises.

Jeff Schumacher
Lansing

Licenses helpful

Our state cannot continue to lose talented graduates to outside job markets, and that is exactly what is happening with the interior design profession. We must push for the licensing of interior design professionals in Michigan.

Any consumer would agree that a licensed professional garners more credibility and provides a superior level of service compared to a provider without proper accreditation.

Today, interior designers are professionals who lack this accreditation system in Michigan. Current policy puts interior designers at a competitive disadvantage. Building code officials and architects can instantly reject, without merit, projects and plans from interior design professionals.

Passing a bill to license interior design professionals would encourage growth in our job markets. It would keep talented graduates interested in pursuing jobs in Michigan and boost our decaying economy.

Keep our current and future professionals here at home and support the licensing of interior designers in Michigan.

Patrick Beadling
East Lansing

License designers

Licensing interior designers will actually help Michigan (Viewpoint, Jan. 31). It won't put anyone out of job; to the contrary, it will help retain jobs in Michigan, and it will help practicing interior designers have more professional credibility.

If we don't support a growing profession, why would anyone want to stay in Michigan to practice his or her trade?

This isn't about making anything more complicated; it's about improving a profession, keeping our graduates in state, and attracting new talent.

Right now, if you're a rising interior designer, there is little to keep you in or draw you to Michigan.

I've read the Senate bills online, and it is very clear there is no red tape involved; no bureaucracy. This idea will very likely generate revenue for the state.

This is a win-win for everyone. Let's give the interior design profession a recognized status and help improve our economy.

Eric Lockwood
Lansing

Delete 'Dexter'

As you know, CBS is planning to bring the Showtime series "Dexter" to broadcast television, starting on Feb. 17

I am urging our local CBS stations, as responsible members of this community, to pre-empt "Dexter." This community does not need a series coming into our homes that glorifies a sadistic serial killer.

Along with a broadcast license comes a responsibility to use the publicly owned broadcast airwaves to serve the public interest. A series that asks viewers to empathize with a ruthless killer does not serve the public interest.

If you are not familiar with this program, I urge you to go to www.parentstv.org for more information. Please do the responsible thing. Do not allow "Dexter" to air on our local CBS stations.

Joan Epkey
Fowler

Nation's at risk

Traditional wisdom in Michigan has now become the mantra that unions are bad. That will be the mantra until a large majority of people are unemployed or underemployed.

In 150 years, the dust of globalization will probably have settled - on the ruins of the U.S.A. and its once powerful middle class, and, oh yes, its democracy, once the guiding light of the world.

James Roper
Holt

Choice is grim

As a Vietnam-era veteran, it galls me that the most bellicose of all the Republican presidential candidates - with regard to U.S. foreign policy - have never served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Rudy Giuliani, Fred Thompson and Mitt Romney are nothing but cowards and fools, or "chicken hawks" - a term well-known to veterans.

At least John McCain has put his rear end where his mouth is, not that I support him, either, since he is as big of a war-monger as the aforementioned former candidates.

If the choice in November boils down to Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama vs. John McCain, I'll choose "none of the above." I can only hope that Ron Paul runs as an independent when he is denied the Republican nomination.

Paul served as a flight surgeon in the Air Force, and is the only presidential candidate who would not perpetuate the military-industrial complex.

Don Walker
Fowlerville

Paul's our guy

He's completely different than all the other candidates.

He's not a mega-millionaire. He's not an elitist. He is not given a fair chance to speak by the media.

His name is Dr. Ron Paul, and he is dedicated to preserving personal liberty, property rights, life

and restoring our monetary system.

He's against free trade deals, the war in Iraq, amnesty for illegal immigrants, eminent domain, high income taxes and taxes on tips.

Even if Paul doesn't become president, something important is happening. He is bringing to light important issues kept quiet by the media and government. Do you know about the inflation tax, the super highway, national ID and solvency?

I can't express in 150 words all that Paul has to offer and all the information that his Web site contains. Open your mind, learn and utilize his honesty and knowledge to take back America.

Visit www.RonPaul2008.com

Lacey Cunningham
Lansing

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