LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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We encourage you to submit letters with both positive and constructive criticism that may help bring about positive change in our community.

Please send to: info@stjTelegraph.com or The Saint Joseph Telegraph, 202 Blake Street, St. Joseph, MO. 64504-1249

Washington's Idea of Fiscal Restraint

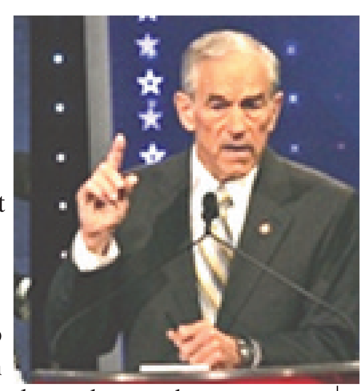
Texas Straight Talk

Rep. Ron Paul, M.D. | Columnist
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (R-TEXAS)

It has been months now since the new healthcare reform bill was passed into law. As is so typical, this massive piece of legislation was passed with a sense of urgency so acute that leadership declared America could not afford to wait until legislators, their staff and the general public had time to thoroughly read the bill.

The truth comes out eventually, however. Much like the recently discovered exemption from Freedom of Information Act requirements for the SEC that was slipped into the equally massive and "urgent" financial reform bill, we are finally seeing what other insidiousness has been hiding in the fine print of the healthcare reform bill. It seems that all provisions in this poorly written and poorly conceived monstrosity need to be repealed as soon as possible.

One such disaster-waiting-to-happen is one of the revenue generating provisions used to claim that the healthcare reform bill was "paid for". $17 billion in additional tax revenues is supposed to come from an onerous new IRS reporting requirement that any taxpayer with business income who spends over $600 in one year with one business will have to report those expenditures to the IRS. Mind you, this is a cumulative total of $600 in transactions in one year. This will involve so much extra accounting and paperwork that the IRS claims it will be unable to deal with it effectively, and even the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (to whom it should be a boon) has come out against it! Apparently they realize they will actually lose customers, especially small businesses, to bankruptcy because of this!



Gold dealers are especially alarmed by this provision, as most of their transactions easily top $600. This represents a significant outlay of time and paperwork and no additional revenue for businesses with which to hire people. Not to mention this makes every business a de facto IRS agent, as if they didn't have enough to worry about already!

Of course, there is a tremendous outcry against this. Several other legislators also see how unreasonable this is and are trying to repeal it. However, this would simply mean that $17 billion in healthcare funding will have to come from somewhere else, and there are no good options. Taxes from some other equally bad collection scheme? Borrowing and more debt? Creating more money from thin air and adding to inflationary pressures?

The best answer, of course, would be to repeal the entire health care law, along with all other unconstitutional spending. But Congress is more likely to continue the shell game to cover the fact that we are broke and can afford none of this.

This whole idea of "paying for" new programs is a political euphemism that suggests that raising taxes is just as good as cutting spending since neither one increases the national debt. Raising taxes and overwhelming small businesses with paperwork and regulations still increases governmental burden on our fragile economy. But this is our government's idea of "fiscal restraint" in action. Washington needs to stop creating new programs and spending so much money. That would be true fiscal restraint.

Your Letters

No Child Left Behind Double Edge Sword

I have been working to gather facts regarding the closure of the only two Title I Schools located in the west section of St. Joseph since April of 2009. It took three months just to learn that the district had to answer my questions according to the law. I have continued to research the basis for these closures and have learned that the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law of 2001 forces local school districts to pay for the added expenses to incorporate teacher development, after school programs/tutoring and additional buses and or trailers needed to offer school choice to families who have children attending only Title I Schools that do not meet the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) on the state standardized tests in accordance with the regulations stipulated under NCLB.

As you may recall, the St. Joseph School District presented a plan to close Neely Elementary in February of 2002. Parents were told that enrollment had dropped and that 36 Hwy was too dangerous to the children who may be playing outside in the event of a crash on the highway. Upon presentation of factual documentation, the district opted to keep the school open. I had wondered back then about the NCLB law and wrote a letter to our board asking if this new law had anything to do with the consideration to close Neely; although I never received a reply.

It wasn't until September of 2002 that I realized the real reason our school had been targeted for closure. I learned that Neely students scored at the bottom of the 18 elementary school buildings. I began asking my school officials about this information. Several parents were invited to speak with then Superintendant, Dr. Colgan, who explained that he was baffled as to why our students were not doing better. I was told that Neely received more funding than any other school in our district; yet ou

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Dr.

THE SAINT JOSEPH Telegraph

THE SAINT JOSEPH TELEGRAPH
(USPS 009376)
is published weekly, except between Christmas and New Years days, for $30.00/year plus $2.24 sales tax in Buchanan, Andrew and DeKalb Counties; $39.77 elsewhere in Missouri; and $45/year outside Missouri (NO REFUNDS) by Mike A. Bozarth, 202 Blake Street, St. Joseph, MO 64504. Periodical postage paid at St. Joseph, Missouri. Since Jan 22, 2009 Internet Subscriptions are free by sending your request to info@stjtelegraph.com
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
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202 Blake Street
St. Joseph, MO 64504-1249
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