

### Roberts sets record straight on SCHIP

#### LETTER

To the Editor,

If you have been watching the debate surrounding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), you have probably noticed that the Washington spin factor is out of control. Given all the commentary, it's a wonder that anyone understands what the bill actually does. There are rumors this bill provides free government health care to illegal immigrants, taxpayer funded abortions, subsidized health care to high-income families or health care for "children" up to age 25. These rumors are simply not true — if they were, I would not have supported the bill.

First, a little background: SCHIP provides health care to low-income children whose families would otherwise be unable to afford coverage. The bill overwhelmingly approved by Congress focuses on getting health coverage to children who currently qualify for the SCHIP program, but are not enrolled because of the lack of resources in the program.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee which actually wrote the bill, let me try to set the record straight.

**Myth:** This bill provides government health care to families with incomes as high as \$83,000.

**Fact:** This bill does not grant SCHIP coverage to children whose families have incomes over \$40,000. In fact, the only way a state can cover children in families at higher income levels is if the administration grants approval for the state to do so. This is *already* current law, and this bill does not change that. This means those states who are currently covering families with incomes as high as \$70,000 are doing so not through congressional approval, but through waivers by the administration. However, this bill for the first time puts tough standards into place to ensure states are truly focusing their programs on low-income children.

Unfortunately, if current law remains in place, states actually have greater incentives to cover higher income populations and will continue to get a higher federal payment to do so. This means there would be no checks in place to stop future administrations from easily granting waivers to states to cover higher income families. This truly could mean a step towards national health care.

**Myth:** This bill provides SCHIP coverage to "children" up to age 25.

**Fact:** This bill only covers children aged 18 or younger. This is current law and this bill does not change that. More importantly, this bill actually fixes the problem created by this administration which granted waivers to states to cover adults under this program meant for low-income children. Unfortunately, under this administration's watch, we now have 14 states that cover adults under their SCHIP programs. And, many of these adults do not have any children. More disturbing is that several of these states actually spend more of their SCHIP money on adults than they do children.

**Myth:** This bill will encourage families to drop their private health insurance in favor of SCHIP.

**Fact:** This bill takes the necessary steps to encourage further private market participation in the SCHIP program. It builds on the current private structure, better allowing states to provide health insurance to children through the private market. Most importantly, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that two-thirds of the children who will gain access to health coverage under this bill are currently uninsured — not children who will be dropping their private health care to enroll in SCHIP.

As a result of these important provisions, America's Health Insurance Plans — which represents over 1,300 private health insurance plans nationwide — endorsed this bill. This is in addition to every major medical association, state governors and child advocacy groups.

I truly hope all sides can take a step back and realize what is at stake for our children. This is a good bill and it will provide health insurance to children who would otherwise have no access to health care.

If you would like to know more about issues before the Senate, please visit my Web site at <http://roberts.senate.gov>. For regular updates, be sure to sign up on my home page for a monthly e-newsletter, The Roberts Report.

Sen. Pat Roberts

### Thumbs Up . . .

To **Dorothy Snyder**, on your 98th birthday.

To **Norton cross country boys**, on your fourth straight league championship.

To **Frank and Susan Hillebrand**, on your 25th wedding anniversary.

To our **Firemen**, for carrying your mes-

sage to our school children.

To **Toby Cochran**, on your academic achievements.

(To submit a name of names for this semi-weekly salute, e-mail [tomd@nw-kansas.com](mailto:tomd@nw-kansas.com), telephone 877-6908 or 3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office.)

## OpinionLine: 877-6908

### THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X

215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654

Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers

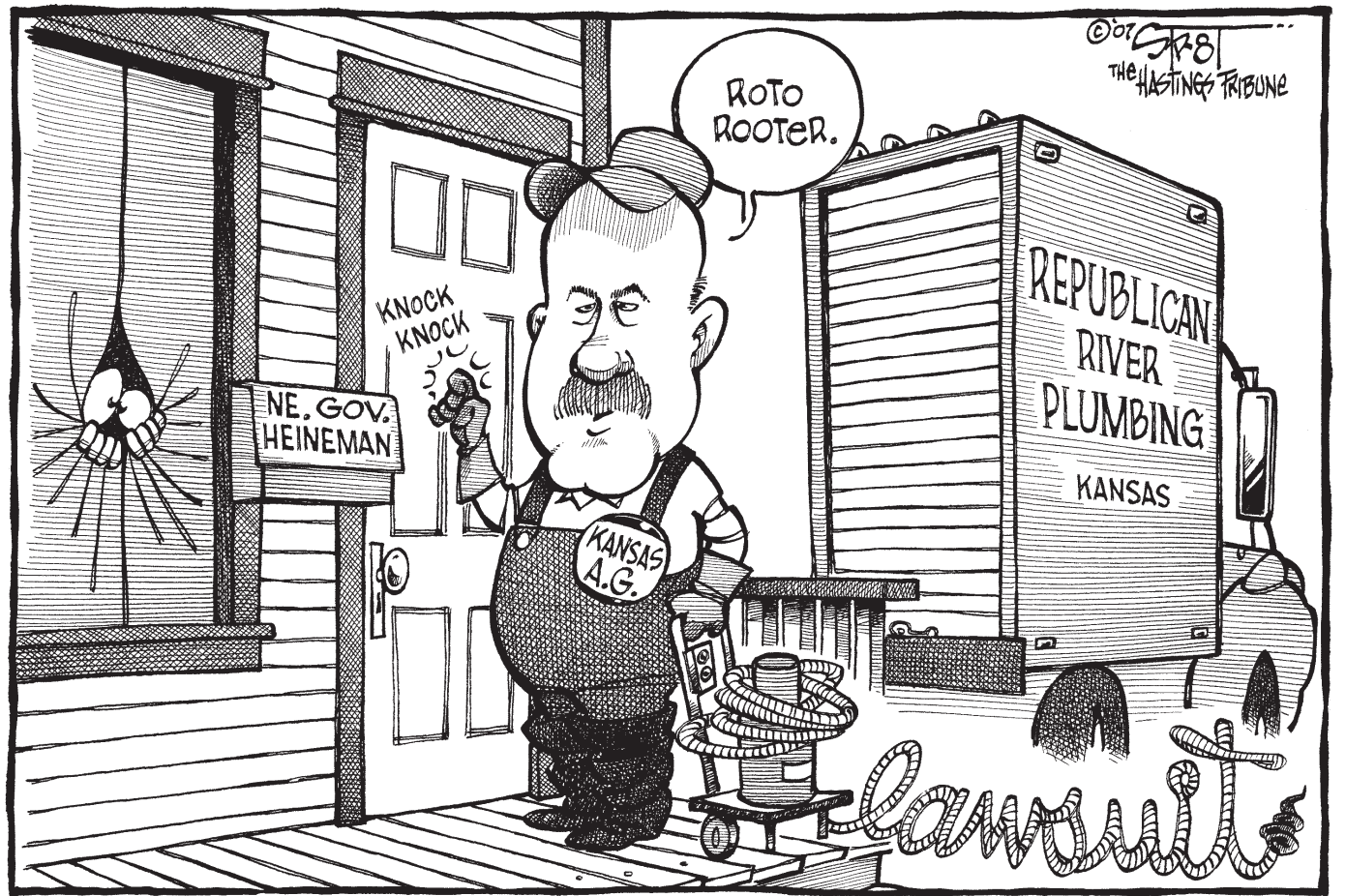
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Publishers, 1970-2002

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### Another big plus for city of Norton

Something happened to me Tuesday evening that underscores why I think Norton is a classy place, a good place, a caring place to live. I ordered a medium pizza for delivery. They said it would take a half hour to 45 minutes. That worked out well with my schedule.

During that time, I had a call on my cell phone and had the television on. Those two things apparently had my full attention because I didn't hear the knock on the door by the lady delivering the pizza.

She became concerned because as often as she's delivered to my address I was always at the door after the first knock. Sensing something may be wrong, she used her cell phone to call to make sure all was okay. But I didn't answer the phone, which she said rang a number of times. I was in another room away from where my landline phone is located.

So she tried knocking once more. This time I heard it. And when I went to the door she breathed a sigh of relief. She said she was afraid something might have happened to me and that she was prepared to call 911 if I hadn't answered this time.

Unless you live alone and in the category of "real senior," you don't realize how appreciative I was of her diligence. Everything was OK with me, but if it hadn't been, help would soon have been on the way, thanks to this very kind delivery person.

Another BIG plus for living in a SMALL town.

-td-

Campaign chuckle: Sen. John McCain, on the campaign trail in New Hampshire, told a town hall meeting last weekend that it's been so dry in Arizona, "the trees are now chasing the dogs."

### Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling  
Not bad, senator!



Hey Rush (as in Limbaugh) listen up: Why don't you take that cigar out of your mouth while on the air? Every television clip we see, you are puffing away as you proclaim the words of Rush. In case you may have forgotten, every thing possible is being done by an awful lot of concerned people to keep kids from smoking. Role models especially should do their part. Thanks for your consideration.

-td-

I am always amazed at how some TV salespeople think viewers can easily be taken for a ride. I make reference in particular to those paid programming shows that push all kinds of gadgets with values, they say, up to \$150 for just a few dollars. And they'll even give you another one FREE! Whoopee! Something tells me something is grossly overpriced.

And they are quick to note, "you won't find this (whatever item is being pushed) in any store." To some degree, I can understand that.

Their demonstrations are always interesting. The one bringing smiles to my face is a gadget that slices a potato into what the salesperson says are "delicious French fries." I doubt the mere cutting of the potato results in delicious fries. If so I am wasting my time doing it the way I do.

And they demonstrate knives that are so sharp they can cut meat slices so thin you can read a newspaper through them. How many slices would you need to acquire taste if they are that skinny?

We generally encounter these programs on Saturdays and Sundays while surfing for football coverage and currently baseball coverage as we get ready to roll into the World Series.

I remember some time back when one of those shows advised viewers that if they called within the next 10 minutes they would add a bonus item. So I called the 800 number provided (tongue in cheek), and when the young gentleman came on line I apologized for being four minutes late and wondered if that cut me out of the bonus item. He chuckled. I think that was a signal to me that's how the company he represents lures response to their sales pitches.

And that's what I thought all along. And my thinking is just the opposite of the old saying, which I'll paraphrase, "there isn't one born every minute."

-td-

From an e-mailer: Life is short, break the rules, forgive quickly, kiss slowly, love truly, laugh uncontrollably, and never regret anything that made you smile.

-td-

Mixed up seasons, I guess. Twice within the week we've had heavy rains and hail, and wind. The wind, well, that's just a part of Kansas. But the heavy rains and hail, well...that's a bit out of place at this time on the calendar. We dubbed Wednesday afternoon's storm "Hurricane Not."

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend! And remember your church always

### How would you have handled this?

Hopefully everyone takes information they get off the internet with a grain of salt. If you want to find things that support your view you can find them. Oft times, however, even when actual sources with splendid credentials are named research will uncover what the sources named never said, proved or promoted what is being attributed to them.

Nevertheless a lot of it sounds good and if we are inclined to believe a thing we will believe it! My problem is I always forget the things that might be helpful at the moment they are needed.

Say for instance, you stay in your college kid's apartment after a late football game because you couldn't get a motel room. And say about 4:00 a.m. one of the roommates begins coughing and coughing and coughing and coughing....and coughing....and coughing....and pretty soon everyone is awake and she coughs and coughs and coughs....and coughs.

And coughs! Should you go and comfort her? Cough, cough, cough. Do they have honey in the house that would coat her throat? Cough, cough, cough.

Would it help if she laid on her side or tummy? Cough, cough, cough. How about a shot of whiskey? Cough, cough, cough.

What is wrong with her? Has she been to the doctor? Cough, cough, cough. Finally you stuff cotton balls in your ears because you just can't stand it a moment longer and even that doesn't help! Cough,

### Back Home Nancy Hagman



cough, cough!

Just say something like that happened, not that it did. But if it did what should one do!

Here's the answer, thanks to the internet! (Something I remember reading months ago but ignored.) Slather Vicks on the bottoms of the afflicted one's feet and have them put on heavy socks. In no time at all they will be sleeping like, well like a 50-something mother of a college kid in her OWN bed!

According to the internet story, your feet absorb the Vicks carrying it through your body and quieting the cough. It claims if you put garlic on your feet you can taste it in your mouth in less than 20 minutes.

(Who figures this stuff out? Who puts garlic on your feet, just to see what happens?)

It does confirm a long standing concern I have about wearing sandals. Have you ever looked at your feet after a day of tromping around in sandals and wondered what you may have exposed yourself to?

(Okay, maybe I'm the only one, but at least I never put garlic on my feet!)

In my long lost youth, I loved to go barefoot. I remember my dad getting upset about my habit of going off without shoes. "We'd never go to town without shoes when I was a kid," he would grouse. "People would think you couldn't afford them."

I think there might have been part of the lecture that included something about, "what if you have to walk?" As an adult I will give credence to this concern. I can't imagine what I was thinking! Still, I'm not completely reformed. I still like to go barefoot, but only in the house.

For the record the young lady referred to in the alleged incidence recounted above went to the doctor later. He said she had a cold.

The Vicks on the feet thing sounds plausible to me. A grandma I know swears by it. What could it hurt? It could be a cheap and easy way to get some sleep! Just check with your doctor in the morning to be sure the cough is not a sign of a more dangerous illness!

And don't ignore that internet stuff because I got something that threatened bad luck if I didn't forward it to everyone in my address book in the next ten minutes but I deleted it! And look what happened — we couldn't get a motel room after a late football game and had to stay in an apartment with college kids and someone coughed and coughed and coughed....