



Free Press Viewpoint

Grant illegal aliens driver's licenses

This may seem a strange thing to advocate, but Kansas should follow the lead of California and resume giving driver's licenses to "undocumented," or illegal, aliens living here. Actually, California was not the first state to start issuing licenses to noncitizens, only the 11th. Others include Oregon and our neighbor to the west, Colorado.

Why? First, having a license should allow illegals to get insurance again. Right now, thousands of these people, mostly hard-working folks with jobs, have to drive without insurance because they can't get a license.

Second, it will allow the same people to have a state-issued ID without qualifying them for welfare, medical aid or any other government programs. Most states issue a separate type of license for the undocumented, but at least they get into the system.

And finally, it could take the edge off a campaign to paint the Republican party as anti-minority. This is an issue that Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree on.

We are not talking about immigration "reform" here, or any sort of amnesty for illegal entry. Those are issues Congress will have to solve.

What we would be saying is that if people are going to drive here, they must follow American laws, register for an American driver's license and buy American insurance for their vehicles.

States can't enforce immigration laws anyway. They will have to leave the tough decisions to the feds.

Many Kansas police officials said it was a mistake to exclude this group from state-issued licenses because of the insurance problem and because it left them completely outside the system. That hasn't changed.

But the state Legislature got swept up in a wave of hysteria about illegal immigration and made a decision that causes more problems than it solves.

Many good, conservative Republicans, including farmers and their organizations, business people and others desperate for workers, know that immigrants usually come here only to work. Often, jobs can't be filled without hiring immigrants, and these people would not come here if we didn't have jobs. In fact, they did not come during the late, lamented Great Recession, when immigration numbers actually dropped.

We don't believe that illegals should be able to get any government benefits while here, including welfare, Medicaid, Social Security and the like. Even legal immigrants should not be allowed to come here just to get welfare.

But children, often U.S. citizens themselves, do need an education, and anyone who's driving here needs to have a license, proper training and basic insurance. It's to everyone's benefit to see that happen.

Gov. Sam Brownback and the Republican-dominated Legislature need to take a look at the problem and come up with a solution that includes making sure all drivers have a license and insurance. Everyone has a stake in that. — *Steve Haynes*

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

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Sharon Friedlander - Publisher
sfriedlander@nwkansas.com

NEWS

R.B. Headley - Sports Editor
colby.sports@nwkansas.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard@nwkansas.com

Sam Dieter - News Reporter
colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Heather Alwin - Society Editor
colby.society@nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

Kathryn Ballard - Advertising Representative
kb Ballard@nwkansas.com

Sharon Funk - Advertising Representative
snfunk@nwkansas.com

Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design
khunter@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Office Manager

Melissa Edmondson - Office Manager
medmondson@nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansas.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

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OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

YET ANOTHER REASON TO HONOR VETERANS

Apples top off freezer – until holidays

I was looking for Jonathan apples. My sister and I were on our way back from visiting relatives in Arkansas, and our trip took us through Branson, Mo., and along an area that Steve and I used to visit 40 years ago to get Jonathan apples.

Back in those days, we lived in Kansas City and would drive to the Branson area, where there wasn't much but orchards and a sleepy village – a lot like a bunch of other Ozark-area towns.

Times have changed. Branson is reached by a four-lane freeway that even in October was busy, and the town, while not at high season, had more than enough traffic for us. Apples were not being sold in fruit stands at every crossroads like I remembered.

When we finally did pass a sign that read "Jonathan Apples," I had to make a U-turn to get into the little roadside stand. There were indeed baskets of apples everywhere.

I was tempted by the bushels. We had always bought a bushel of apples back when we were young. I would sit at night watching the 10 p.m. news while peeling, coring and slicing the apples. Then I would put six cups of them



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

with the spices for an apple pie and toss the bagged pie in the freezer to await its crust.

I also made apple sauce and we just ate a lot of them. There were three, then four, of us back in those days, and we could do a lot of damage to a bushel of apples.

However, there are only two of us now, so I settled on a peck, which is I discovered, one-fourth of a bushel. Frankly, I'd have guessed it was more like a half. It seemed like a lot of apples.

It had been a lot of years since I had made those pies for the freezer, but a sharp paring knife and a little perseverance put six pies in my freezer. It was almost more than I had room for, but we squeezed them in.

The same day, I prepared the frozen pie fill-

ings, I used up the last of my large zucchini and yellow squash. I peeled and seeded them, ran them through a salad shooter to make nice shreds and froze them in two-cup portions. Two cups of zucchini and/or yellow squash is exactly what I need to make two loaves of zucchini bread or a pan of zucchini brownies.

You can't open the door to the freezer without something jumping out at you, but I'm ready for winter. I've already made one batch of brownies and a couple of loaves of zucchini bread.

For Thanksgiving, I asked my son if he wanted pumpkin or apple pie.

He said "yes." Now it looks as if there will be more people for dinner.

Looks like one or more of those apple pies will be hitting the crust. Yum.

And yeah! Freezer space.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Which members of Congress are exempt?

Nov. 1, each member of Congress in a most quiet process chose whether they and their staffs accepted the Obama exemption to their having to live under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. If lawmakers didn't act, staffers were exempted by default – automatically. Do you know how your two U.S. senators and member of the House of Representatives voted?

Most people were not supportive of Obamacare when first formed. Today, if a vote were taken, most would vote against it as well, especially in light of the now-established fact that most will have rate increases and higher deductibles. Although promised otherwise by President Barack Obama, most will not be able to keep their doctors or providers.

Big business and unions are opting out as fast as they can. In what appears to be a move aimed to mute congressional opposition to the forced healthcare law, Obama has allowed Congress to opt out, leaving only the American people enslaved by the legislation that they created. Again, do you know how your congressmen voted?

At first some members of Congress convincingly denied that they had received an exemption, but Sen. David Vitter published the Obamacare language next to the Obama exemption.

The first read in part: "If the employee purchases a qualified health plan through the Exchange the employee will lose the employer contribution (if any) to any health benefits plan offered by the employer and that all or a portion of such contribution may be excludable from income for federal income tax purposes" (See Section 1512, number 3).

The second, the Obama congressional exemption, coming through the Office of Personnel Management, page 6, read in part: "The revisions adopted here have no impact on the availability to Member of Congress and Congressional Staff of the contribution established in 5 USC 8906" (Alex Pappas, "Republican accuses fellow lawmakers of 'lying' about Obamacare exemption," 9/19/2013).

Other Opinions

• **Harold Pease**
Liberty Under Fire

The president, who has no constitutional authority to make law, unilaterally changed the law and voided otherwise mandatory congressional participation, presumably to grease the skids for members of Congress accepting what in any other setting would be called a bribe.

Now they defined their employees as "official" or "not official" to determine whether or not staff members had to enter the exchanges, with the designation of "not official" not having to accept Obamacare.

The hypocrisy of forcing the people to live under what they themselves will not be beyond description and at the height of political corruption. If the president is going to lead us into socialized medicine then he must accept it for himself. If the Supreme Court is going to rule it constitutional they too must live under it.

This should be the litmus test for the reelection of every senator and representatives for the next several years to flush out of office those who exempt themselves from the laws that they make for others. All members of Congress made this decision on Nov. 1. Did they choose to live above the law? If so, corruption has never been so clear and stark.

Most House Republicans have opted to submit themselves and their staffs to the costly provisions of the law, although they despise the law and played virtually no role in its inception.

But so far, ironically, Senate Democrats, who all voted for it, appeared split on the issue. Still, we believe no exemptions should be made for anyone in government. How will they govern correctly if they have immunized themselves from the pain they cause others?

Sen. Vitter is leading a Senate fight to nullify the exemptions for lawmakers and their staffs. His bill would require all members of Congress and the executive branch to purchase health insurance without taxpayer-funded subsidies – just like everyone else. No exceptions. If this lacks sufficient congressional support we support Sen. Rand Paul's constitutional amendment designed to require our government to live under the same laws they make for us. They are not our masters but our servants.

As this automatically goes into effect without a member of Congress doing anything and as many will let that just happens, it is imperative to carefully phrase your question to them leaving no wiggle room. We suggest, "Are you, or any of your staff, exempted from receiving any subsidization from Obamacare?"

Dr. Harold Pease has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers. He has taught history and political science for over 25 years at Taft College. To read more of his weekly articles, go to www.LibertyUnderFire.org.

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774
roberts.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966.
Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

Mallard Fillmore

• **Bruce Tinsley**



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