

LETTERS

I will pray for improvement in health insurance services

To the editor:

I'd like to offer a suggestion or two to Cathi Belcher of Jackson. I would see if someone at Memorial Hospital could refer you to an agency or other insurance agents or providers in the valley. There may even be lawyers who have begun to advise people on what to do if an insurance provider drops you suddenly without giving previous notice or explanation for dropping your coverage. Maybe someone at the Gibson Center may know how to find assistance, too.

Sadly, what you have experienced has been widely reported by others. It is also a good example of how the changes in approach for committee deliberation and proper time for discussion on the floors of the House of Representatives and Senate in Washington, D.C. before voting on any bills has adversely affected many areas of American life.

Olympia Snowe's recently published book "Finding Common Ground" goes into detail describing just how the current stalemate conditions in the law-making arena have rapidly developed in Washington, D.C. (especially during the past 10 years). I might also suggest that you get in touch somehow with your N.H. representatives at both the state and federal level to explain your dissatisfaction with the services you have or have not received. Name names of individuals or agencies that appear legitimate but may be scam attempts. Old-fashioned fall backs such as periods of "prayer and fasting" might be required for maintaining at least a calm exterior when dealing with the ineptitudes of lower- and upper-level service providers, too. I certainly will pray for an improvement in service for many other Americans, too.

Cindy Alden
West Fryeburg, Maine

Our New Hampshire state senators aren't listening to us

To the editor:

Our State Senators are not listening to us.

For the jaded among us this isn't a surprise.

We're cynical because we know our government is bought and paid for by the highest bidders.

Our legislators no longer have constituents, they have investors — groups not even from legislators' districts with whom legislators spend 70 percent of their time fundraising, and who donate in order to obtain favorable policy.

A recent Princeton study showed definitively we no longer have a democracy, but an oligarchy— rule by the wealthy few.

It showed that public policy is dictated by the 0.000042 percent of Americans who give substantial contributions, not by the People, as we all believe.

But we don't have to resign to apathy. New Hampshire, true to our independent spirit, are trying to restore government to the People.

Building on work of years past, this March resolutions were on 61 town warrants calling for a constitutional amendment that would: 1. guarantee the right of the people to regulate political spending, and 2. clarify that artificial entities such as labor unions, Super-PACs, and corporations are not entitled to the same constitutional rights as actual human beings.

Out of the 61 towns, 48 passed the resolution — and most by an overwhelming majority.

The people of New Hampshire have spoken.

Yet when this same resolution, SB307, came before our State Senate, 12 Senators rejected the original language, gutting it — although 32 of the 48 towns that passed warrant articles were in these Senators' districts.

For example, Senator Forrester voted against the purpose of the bill, but seven of the nine towns in her district passed similar resolutions.

And although all five towns in Senator Bragdon's district and all four in Senator Bradley's district also passed these resolutions, both of them also

voted no.

Why aren't they listening to us? A UNH Poll revealed 75 percent of New Hampshire, across all political lines, want a constitutional amendment to return control of government to the People.

New Hampshire cares about this. A lot.

There is a movement building in response to government corruption, and it stems from our collective innate sense of what democracy is — from the wisdom of leaders from James Madison and Teddy Roosevelt to Warren Rudman and John McCain.

It's tempting to be apathetic, thinking the system is rigged.

It is rigged; that is why we have to fix it.

SB307 is now passing the State House, so it will go back to conference with the Senate, where our senators may try to weaken it again.

We have to make our State Senators hear us, on this more than anything else, because this is the one issue that decides whether we have a say in any other.

No matter your politics or cause, if you want to have a say in it then we have to get big money out of politics.

No one should have to have money to have a voice — not in a democracy.

Ellen Read, Newmarket
Bob Martens, Bridgewater
George Blaisdell, Bridgewater
Max Stamp, Bristol
Nancy Dowey, Bristol
Maria Weick, Dorchester
Herb Moyer, Groton and Exeter
Pam Martin, Plymouth
Kenneth McKenzie, Eaton
Richard Devens, Sandwich
Penny Voyles, Wakefield
Michelle Russell, Hancock
Gerald Debonis, Sharon
Lucy Edwards, Northwood
Peter White, Nottingham
Scott Abercrombie, Salem
George Manos, Danville
Carol Croteau, Kingston

Evert Lamm, Stratham
Joseph Bagshaw, Conway
State Senator Martha Fuller Clark, District 21, Sponsor of SB307



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