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Your View: Letters to the editor

21 hrs ago



Build on 2018

Congratulations are in order to Missouri legislators for their work completed during the 2018 regular session. Important legislation passed the chambers that will, among other things, lower income tax rates, promote accountability in our government unions, provide greater education access to our students and relieve some of the burdens imposed by the state's Byzantine licensing system.

While other measures fell short of passage — including the repeal of the prevailing wage, comprehensive reform of tax incentive programs and the enactment of an earned income tax credit — those were uncommon valleys in a mountain range of success. I am hopeful that in 2019 the Legislature will build on its 2018 successes and re-engage the issues that did not cross the finish line this year.

Patrick Ishmael

Director of government accountability

Show-Me Institute

More to the issue

I do not happen to share Christine Flowers' views on abortion as set forth in her column (Globe, May 31). But that is not the reason for this letter. Rather, I think it important to add an important piece of information that helps explain the outcome of the recent referendum in Ireland on the country's abortion laws.

Now it is true, as Flowers notes, that scandals such as the treatment of girls in facilities run by the Magdalene sisters and sexual abuse of children by some Catholic clergy had triggered resentment of the influence of the Church.

But I think voters were more directly influenced by an incident that occurred 5 1/2 years ago. In October 2012, Savita Halappanavar, a 31-year old dentist who was 17 weeks pregnant, was admitted to a hospital in Galway, where doctors informed her that she was suffering a miscarriage and that her fetus had no chance of survival.

But although Dr. Halappanavar's condition rapidly worsened, hospital physicians told her and her husband that they could do nothing until the fetus' heart stopped beating. By the time this happened three days later and the fetus was surgically removed, Savita had already contracted septicemia. She never recovered and died four days later. It's likely that earlier surgery would have saved her life.

While I doubt that the information I presented will change anyone's position on the emotionally and politically charged issue of abortion, I hope it will prompt some people to consider more carefully what exactly it means to be "pro-choice" or "pro-life." I also hope that people on both sides of the issue will pause before deciding that, to quote Christine Flowers, "we who cherish life" applies only to people who agree with you.

Paul Teverow

Joplin

Missouri lawmakers put patients first

On Friday, May 18, the last day of Missouri's legislative session, our lawmakers made progress in protecting Missouri patients from unfair health care billing practices. Senate Bill 982, sponsored by Sen. Paul Wieland, R-Jefferson County, will shield patients from surprise medical bills related to emergency room visits.

There are two ways SB 982 will stop unfair medical bills: If you visit an in-network ER and are treated by a contracted physician that is out of network, you will not be responsible for their billed services; and if you visit an ER with symptoms that appear to indicate an emergency, regardless of the diagnosis, your insurer cannot refuse to cover the visit by deciding post-visit that you were not experiencing an actual emergency.

Senate Bill 982 was the result of a sessionlong, bipartisan effort between both lawmakers and constituents who wanted to see an end to unfair medical bills. Although this legislation is a great first step, there are other unfair billing practices that should be addressed in the coming legislative sessions. Some common examples include being charged for the anesthesiologist after going to an in-network provider for surgery or being stuck with lab bills when your primary care physician fails to send your lab work to your in-network lab.

More good news from this legislative session: Missouri moms, whose Medicaid coverage would otherwise end 60 days after giving birth, will have access to substance use treatment covered by Medicaid for one year postpartum. House Bill 2280, also passed on the last day of session, allows for this extension, which has the potential to save the lives of new Missouri mothers and babies. Down the road, we should push for extended coverage for all new moms. As we are all aware, there are complications related to pregnancy and childbirth that extend past two months postpartum.

Kjersti McDonald

Joplin

1 comment

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Common-tater-tot

15 hours ago

Paul, like so many favoring abortion, likes to cite the extreme cases and make them seem common....he knows very well those type of cases could be prevented and remedied without making the killing of millions of children simply for convenience sake allowable. That is what this is about...the people marching for abortion around the world aren't doing it to save the person he is talking about (sometimes I feel some of the extremists in the pro-abortion crowd love to have a few cases like this take place to give them some sort of legitimacy), they are marching because they want nobody telling them what they can or can not do...even if another life is involved.....it very much is the height of self-interest.

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Joplin Globe Events



Tue, Jun 05

Tue, Jun 05



Movers and Shakers

Joplin, MO



TUE
5

WED
6

THU
7

FRI
8

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9

SUN
10

Leads Group One

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