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## Your View: Letters to the editor

Apr 7, 2019



### Protect safety net programs

Medicaid work requirement bills currently in front of the Missouri House and Senate are misdirected: HB 183 (Rep. Curtis Trent, R-Springfield) and SB76 (Sen. David Sater, R-Cassville). Certainly Rep. Trent and Sen. Sater intend for their legislation to make Missouri a better place, but, in fact, their proposed legislation will do the opposite, and here's why.

First of all, the income limits for able-bodied parents to qualify for Missouri Medicaid are too low to begin with. A family of three in Missouri can take in no more than about \$360 in monthly income for the parents to still qualify for Medicaid. Those income limits are unlivable, but by instituting work requirements, people will lose their Medicaid because they'll be kicked into a higher income bracket and become ineligible.

Since Arkansas instituted work requirements, more than 18,000 people have lost their Medicaid health insurance in the last year (<https://n.pr/2GQtFIX>). Health experts believe these people were dropped from the rolls because of the onerous nature of the reporting requirements and the administrative burden on the Medicaid program, not because of a failure to meet the actual work requirements.

Work requirements punish people who have lost jobs by taking away their food or health care, which only makes them sicker and less able to work. Additionally, U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg ruled in March for the second time that Medicaid work requirements do not fit with the purpose of the Medicaid program, which is to provide health care to disabled, elderly and low-income children and adults.

We need to protect safety net programs, not get rid of them, in order to help people get back on their feet. I'm not talking about handouts, but sometimes people need short-term help between a job loss and finding other work that offers a living wage. So, Missouri's focus needs to be on creating good jobs for our citizens to have access to work that allows them to support themselves and their families.

We need to ask ourselves what kind of a state we want to live in. Is it acceptable to live in a place that promotes legislation that exploits its citizens and pushes people down? Or do we want to live in a place that lifts them up? Surely Sater and Trent do not intend to place a metaphorical foot on the necks of those who need some help pulling themselves up, but HB 183 and SB 76 do just that. Please call your legislators (<https://bit.ly/2OWJT5C>) to ask them to vote "no" on each of these bills.

Ellen Broglio

Joplin

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## **Book recommendation**

I very much enjoyed the book review by Paul Teverow (Globe, March 31). I would like to recommend an additional book titled "Cato the Censor" by Dr. Nels Forde.

It gives insight not only into the life of Cato (234-149 B.C.) but also the politics of the Roman Senate and the rationale behind some of the decisions made by the Senate.

Too often personalities entered into the politics of the Senate, showing people have not changed greatly over the centuries. Cato the Censor, or Cato the Elder, was contemporary of Scipio Africanus and the Punic Wars. One of the tragic aspects of Rome was its adopted policy of defending itself by pushing its influence increasingly further away from its home, both militarily and politically. A policy that became increasingly costly for both its military and its economy during both the Republic and the Empire periods. Without knowing our history, we are doomed to repeat our mistakes. The book is affordable as a used edition from online sources. The author was a professor of ancient history at the University of Nebraska.

Jerry Williams

## Joplin

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### **Vote common sense**

Responding to Dianne Slater's letter (Globe, April 4): You would vote for four more years with this narcissistic, mentally challenged president whose main claim to fame with his supporters is his bar-room vocabulary and derogatory remarks to all who oppose him.

He never has a plan, never a policy, just venting tweets and obstructing any chance at relevant change in the country.

I can understand party loyalty, I really can, but this man represents no party other than Donald Trump. Our next election will provide viable alternatives. Let's vote common sense and reason this time. This administration has been the butt of jokes and world distrust for long enough.

Judy L. Tesch

Joplin

**4 comments**

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**GeoffCaldwellisatool**

2 days ago

Hey Judy, don't get discouraged by wingnuts like (little grease sponge). He will hit all the hot button words like... welfare, church, constitution, and Hate. But, then he will slip up and say the president\* has done more for all levels of society. Tell it to the children in cages who have been separated (kidnapped) from their parents. There will be payback: someday all of Trump's children will be behind bars, where they belong, and then he will get a taste of his own medicine.

Like Reply



**Common-tater-tot**

1 day ago

@GeoffCaldwellisatool keep talking.....nothing proves my points like when you opine.....

Like Reply



**Common-tater-tot**

2 days ago

Also...some people might look at the Arkansas results and think.....it worked...we know longer have to confiscate tax money to support 18000 people because they could work (and perhaps now are). But "health experts" obviously profit and live from the welfare 'industry', so they are not too objective. I think we have decided we just want our government to do what the church should be doing.....and what the state (fed or local) was never intended constitutionally to do.....perhaps....

Like Reply



**Common-tater-tot**

2 days ago

Yet, Judy.....he must have a far better "plan" and 'policy' than all those you think are so much more intelligent...since he has done more positive for all levels of society than any president in recent history. Hate sure seems to blind.....

Like Reply

## Joplin Globe Events

See All Events **+** Add your event

Tue, Apr 09

Wed, Apr 10

Wed, Apr 10

Wed, Apr 10

Wed, Apr 10



**VFW Post 5293 General Membership Meeting**  
3802 S Duquesne Rd

**YPN Building Future Leaders Workgroup**  
Panera Bread

**Leads Group Two**

Joplin Area Chamber of...

**YPN HYPE Lunch**

Club 1201

**YPN Brand Mast Workgroup**  
Caroline's



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