



Letters To The Editor

“Constitutional Savings”

I'd like to comment on Howard Last's letter to the editor regarding "Constitutional Savings" (July 20 issue).

Last's is the first voice I have heard, besides mine, calling for the abolishment of Social Security. I am 77 and have so far refused to take Social Security. I think it was a bad idea when it started, and not enough of us have had the courage to say enough is enough! Last offered some equitable solutions. I particularly liked the part where the government gives back all the money it has collected.

With education, I think individuals could take charge of their retirement money. It would have the benefit of encouraging people to take responsibility for their lives and their choices. There are many good reasons to defund it: unnatural dependence on the government, push toward socialism/communism, and it is unconstitutional.

Let's go on and stop Medicare too! Medicare has destroyed our healthcare system. For better or worse, doctors march to the Medicare beat. I get 10 minutes in an appointment and am given tests I don't want. I was annoyed and frightened recently when I saw a statement detailing an office visit to my internist that had a \$38 charge for testing for depression. Upon entering the office, I had simply been handed a lengthy questionnaire, which had been pushed by the government.

When I was a child, there were three options: Visit the doctor in his office, call him/her for advice, or get a home visit. Doctors were paid by their patients just as people paid other businesses for service. Doctors worked out payment arrangements for people when needed. When we go to the doctor today, we don't first ask, "How much is this going to cost?" In fact, as a senior citizen I don't find out until much later how much it will cost, when I am often shocked.

A few years ago I tried to find out from a hospital how much a tonsillectomy, appendectomy, or open heart surgery cost, and they couldn't give me a straight answer. That is a problem. And one that hospitals seemingly don't want us to solve! Let's take back our healthcare system and encourage doctors and hospitals to run their practices like businesses. Competition is healthy.

Keep the government out of it!

Andrea Anderson
Los Angeles, California

A \$50 Lesson

Recently, while I was working in the front yard, my neighbors stopped to chat as they returned home from walking their dog. During our friendly conversation, I asked their little girl what she wanted to be when she grew up. She said she wanted to be president someday. Both of her parents, Democratic Party members, were standing there so I asked her, "If you were president what would be the first thing you would do?"

She replied, "I'd give food and houses to all the homeless people."
Her parents beamed with pride!



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“Wow, what a worthy goal!” I said. “But you don’t have to wait until you’re president to do that!”

“What do you mean?” she replied.

So I told her, “You can come over to my house and mow the lawn, pull weeds, and trim my hedge, and I’ll pay you \$50. Then you can go over to the grocery store where the homeless guy hangs out, and you can give him the \$50 to use toward food and a new house.”

She thought that over for a few seconds, then she looked me straight in the eye and asked, “Why doesn’t the homeless guy come over and do the work, and you can just pay him the \$50?”

I said, “Welcome to the Republican Party.”

Her parents aren’t speaking to me anymore.

William F. Hineser, DPM

Arvada, Colorado



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