

Letters >>

Continued from page 6

with the limited coverage discourages persons from seeking care. Added to that is the knowledge that this pre-existing illness may prevent them from getting insurance if they lose or change jobs. Is it surprising that only a fraction of those with mental illness receive care?

Psychiatric illness can be treated so that persons can lead productive, satisfying lives, but untreated, mental illness results in a high cost to society in absenteeism, loss of productivity, family disruption and suicide.

Dr. Hurd expressed much concern for what he perceives as burdens on himself as a health care provider. I hope he also considers how this Affordable Care Act is a beginning step toward the relief of suffering of mentally ill patients/clients.

Carole Somers, MSN, RN, C  
Lewes

Healthcare act responses appreciated

Thanks and appreciation for the generous coverage you gave to all the readers who wrote in to refute Mr. Hurd.

I think many people have been enlightened, and Mr. Hurd has dropped "health provider from his signature, which was misleading.

He is registered with the state as a social worker.

We believe that the authors of op-ed pieces in your paper should be vetted, and we hope that you will continue to do that.

Also thanks for the articles by Mr. Flood and Mr. Fried.

There is so much misinformation and confusion out there about so many things, that we all count on our newspaper to set things straight.

Ann Nolan  
Lewes

OK...We've Hurd enough about Hurd

With all the self-important and inane banter that has flowed back and forth regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, the act's real core issue and flaw is twofold:

(1) It was enacted by a Congress that "had to pass the legislation before it could be determined what was in it," to paraphrase the then Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

(2) The American people were defrauded by Congress and the Obama administration in that what was portrayed as a "penalty" in the insurance mandate provision is actually a tax.

This fact is now indisputable thanks to the Supreme Court's liberal majority decision. They ruled that the deceptive "penalty" is actually a tax. Under these circumstances the bill would never have passed if Congress and Obama had been truthful to the American people.

So what we have in the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act is a blatant failure on the part of our so-called representatives in Congress to preserve and protect the best interest of their constituents. They passed very important and life changing legislation not knowing fully what they were voting for. In so doing they perpetrated a fraud and deception

**DELAWARE CAPE REGION HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS >>**

**A load of fuel oil tanks headed toward Rehoboth Beach**




PHOTO COURTESY OF LEWES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**THIS PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE COL. RILEY E. MCGARRAUGH COLLECTION** housed at Lewes Historical Society shows a barge-load of fuel oil tanks headed southward through the Lewes-Rehoboth Canal toward Rehoboth Beach. This was at a time when the canal continued as a commercially important waterway with controlling depths that permitted tug and barge traffic. Made in the 1950s, this image shows the Savannah Road crossing of the canal when the bridge-keeper's house was on the beach side of the bridge. Col. McGarraugh was an avid photographer and career Army man. He moved to Lewes in the early 1950s to take command of Fort Miles and eventually retired in the town. He took thousands of photographs through the years, capturing many different aspects of life in Lewes.

either by, purposely disguising, or by not conducting due diligence (not reading the bill), in regard to the most politically sensitive element of the bill. They designated what is really a tax as a penalty. In either case, they were either reprehensibly irresponsible or blatantly fraudulent in their actions.

No one will dispute that our healthcare system is broken. Perhaps the better solution might be

that instead of the all the childish name calling and pontificating letters to the editor regarding this issue, we agree instead to pressure our congressional representatives to produce revised legislation.

Then, once written, insist that: (1) every representative and senator must under oath swear that they have read and comprehend it in its entirety, and (2) that the "tax" burden to pay for it will be

shared equitably by all citizens who will benefit from the revised healthcare legislation. This includes even that 50 percent of our citizenry who currently pay no income tax at all. Anyone of any intelligence has to know it is the only way it can possibly be viable and affordable.

Steve and Linda Hyle  
Lewes

Is vandalism a sign of today's politics?

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, pass the sign each day in front of Hudson Management's building on Route 1 and Eagle Crest Road.

For a long time it paid tribute to the late Craig Hudson, son of owner Joe Hudson and father of Christian and Jamin Hudson.

More recently, Christian decided on what he considered a "very benign" message: "Pray for the country, Repeal Obamacare, Vote Romney."

That's when the trouble started.

"The first incident occurred, ironically, on July Fourth," Christian said, when the office was closed. He received calls that the sign had been changed. His first thought was that it was teenagers up to some mischief.

Instead, he found that many of the letters had been stolen. He ordered more letters and replaced the message.

The second incident occurred the weekend of July 14-16. More letters were stolen and a few screws ripped out. So far, he said, the vandals have cost him about \$400.

He has not reported the dam-



age to the police and doesn't intend to. "If this is the price I have to pay to exercise my free speech rights, then so be it," Christian said. "They won't find any 'back down' in me."

This past week motorists have seen a new message. It honors Bill Hopkins, who retired after 53 years with the family business.

As of 8 a.m. Monday that sign was still up, but Christian said he plans to replace the "Vote Romney" message as soon as his new letters arrive.

"I think these left-wing vandals are cut out of the same cloth as the leftist whackos from Occupy Wall Street, Code Pink, New Black Panthers, etc.," he said. "This was clearly a politically motivated attack on my private property, in an attempt

to stifle my free speech rights."

Unfortunately, he's probably right. He thinks it's too much of a coincidence that the business suffered two acts of vandalism within two weeks of putting up a conservative message. I agree.

Hudson Management, he said, has also received email threats calling for a boycott of the family business.

In our polarized political climate, however, feelings about the healthcare law are running high on both sides.

A recent column in the Cape Gazette made a jaw-dropping statement: the writer compared the recent Supreme Court decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act to a "mini-9/11."

Let's take a look. On one hand, you have foreign terrorists bent on destroying America launching a suicide attack that killed more than 3,000 innocent people. On the other, you have U.S. Supreme Court judges rendering a legal decision on the healthcare law. There were no casualties, with the possible exceptions of reason and common sense.

What's interesting is that while progressives have cheered

Roberts' decision, it was many ways a conservative victory. Roberts - and four other judges - rejected the notion that Congress had the right, under the Constitution's Commerce Clause, to pass the health care act. The law was upheld only on the narrow grounds of Congress's ability to tax.

So what? Consider the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which forced restaurants not to discriminate on the basis of race. It was upheld under the Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to regulate interstate commerce.

Because restaurants received supplies from out of state, the reasoning went, Congress had the power to regulate whom they could serve. Would that pass muster today?

Much federal power rests on Congress's ability to pass laws under the authority of the Commerce Clause. The Supreme Court's decision to limit that authority lays the groundwork for future rulings that could reduce the reach of the federal government. For Republicans, that's hardly a cause for gloom.

Yet, in some conservative circles, Roberts' decision has



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
**THE SIGN IN FRONT** of the Hudson Management building on Route 1 north of Lewes.

made him a pariah. In the imagination of a local columnist, the chief justice's decision elicits a comparison to 9/11. That's straight-up hysteria.

The difference between the two cases mentioned above, of course, is that the first was a criminal act, the second merely an opinion. I applaud Christian Hudson's decision to continue exercising his First Amendment rights.

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