

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

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Garland, Texas

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The Only Answer



Liz Sieve and hubby, Bruce.

“The best thing we can do to help Beto O’Rourke [editor: Democrats] win is to get our neighbor registered to vote and out to the polls to vote. By doing so, your vote can count more than one vote!”

[editor: I met the Sieves at the Beto O’Rourke Rally. Her enthusiasm is infectious.

They live in Dallas and are active Democrats: a precinct chair, election server, voter registrar.

Beto O’Rourke is running for the U.S. Senate to replace the Cruz-man. Contact his website: beto@betofortexas.com]

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

EDITORIAL

Which Way Is Up?

This past month I have spent recovering from a health scare, spending a great deal of time snuggled up in my Lazy Boy Chair and enduring a myriad of medial tests. I have had a lot of time to think and mull over the current state of affairs. My convalescence is ongoing, though I am beginning to get back into activities. The constant drone of bad news out of Washington is wearing on my soul.

The _____ (fill in any derogatory term you want) in the White House gets more outrageous by the hour. There is a pattern I have seen in a third grade classroom. The _____ proclaims an outrageous happening. Then outcry by the students (public). Finally, blaming someone else and/or proclaiming a not-truth outcome. This also happened with a seventh grader who disrupted my classroom for two years. After I had resigned my position, I called his mother and said, point blank that her son was disruptive, obnoxious, and rude.

A few thoughts about today:

The Syrians

In the fall of 2015, Chuck and I traveled to Munich, Germany, Salzburg and Vienna, Austria. This was at the beginning of the Syrian exodus from their homeland. The treatment by the local officials was extraordinary. They gathered these families in the train stations and attempted to see the people were safe, fed and had water. These folks were just ordinary people of many generations escaping from the the war torn danger of their homeland. In the 13 days we were in the area, we never saw a drawn gun or heard an angry remark. Everything was being done to care for these souls. When the “super bomb” was dropped in Afghanistan recently, government officials declared only ISIS members were killed. I kept seeing the faces of the folks I saw in the train stations.

Healthcare in the U.S.

The house tried to end the Affordable Care Act 60 times — and failed every time. The _____ yells frequently about the “fact” the ACA is failing and imploding. Another attempt (with a GOP’per house) within days of the new administration, FAILED. Guess what? They are bringing it back, with provisions for pre-existing conditions are supposedly in the new bill. WRONG. There is a part of the bill for states permitting states to opt out of this provision. We know where Texas stands on voluntary care of the people. The bill finally passed in the GOP’per dominated House of Representatives. The Senate, however has not acted on the bill.

The Environment

EPA regulations have been eliminated and there is a move to eliminate the department entirely. One thing this would supposedly bring back is coal mining. At the same time, the miners healthcare benefits have been severely cut and in some cases eliminated entirely.

Pipelines have been approved and drilling has been initiated. The Keystone, which travels over the Ogallala Aquifer has been approved supposedly using only steel made in American. OOPS, most of the steel has already been purchased and is being used. Steel manufactured in foreign lands.

The _____ recently signed an executive order placing a high tax on Canadian Wood products used to build homes in the U.S. and will add at least \$2,000 to \$3,000 to each new home. This order is not being met with joy from our Canadian neighbors. Another country p–sed off.

Taxes

Just today the GOP’pers rolled out a tax reform package. Huge tax cuts for the wealthy to be made up by the middle class paying more. “It will provide money for jobs!” Hey, folks that’s called trickle-down economics which has failed since it was first introduced by St. Reagan in the 1980s.

Education

Our public schools are being destroyed — crippled by vouchers. Texas has already chosen to starve the education of our children by taking away funding. In a recent text released by the near-death Department of Education misspelled the term, “Education.” That says it all.

These are just a few of the _____ — hailed successes which will fail. As my late mother would say, “You can’t get blood from a turnip.” When middle class wages are consumed by healthcare costs, higher taxes, social benefits curtailed, there will be no money for these “frills.” The question remains: “Is it the GOP’per desire for a return to the slave-massa society?”

Rachel Baker Ford, editor



I Love War!

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

“I love war” the man says in a video. Joe Scarborough, MSNBC Anchor and a tried and true Republican quotes him as asking, “Why don’t we use our nuclear arsenal?” Yet, 63 million people succeeded in electing him President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the most expensive military in the world at a time when Congress refuses to even acknowledge that it is the responsibility of Congress not the President to declare war.

The Republicans have unleashed a mad dog! Even though we are still engaged in the 16 year war in Afghanistan and the 14 year war in Iraq which are still stumbling along, the dictator wants at least one war with his name on it. He views Putin as a hero and buddy. He seems to admire the way Putin decided he wanted Crimea so he stole it. Then Putin wanted more, just like our dictator does. So Putin sent troops and equipment to Syria. Our dictator saw this and drooled. Now our dictator has attacked an airfield in Syria, threatened Iran, and threatened a young dictator in North Korea. Bigly mistake as our dictator would say if he actually understood his actions. Kim Jong-un was raised by a bitter old man that never got over the Korean “police action” and spent years from 1953 until his death in 2011 hating America and teaching his country to hate America while he amassed a paramilitary of 6 million troops. The son, Kim Jong-un was taught to hate America and firmly believes we intend to invade North Korea. Our dictator is taunting Kim Jong-un by sending warships, defensive rockets and making unnecessary threats toward North Korea. He has provided Kim Jong-un with the perfect excuse to take military action to protect his country. He may not strike the American military directly but it is only 60 miles from North Korea to Seoul, the capital of South Korea and Japan is within easy reach of North Korean missiles.

Our dictator aggravates the situation by insisting we go it alone and be the big dog on the international stage. He works at insulting potential and existing allies. He insists upon a wall between the United States and our neighbor to the south, Mexico, and pretends he has the authority to force them to pay for the Dumb Wall of Trump. He has imposed a tariff on lumber from Canada and insulted Germany when he refused to shake hands with Angela Merkel. He snubbed China when he accepted a phone call from Taiwan and called China a currency manipulator. Now he has to eat his words to beg China for help with North Korea. The people in England circulated a petition to prohibit him from visiting their country and the royal family because they find him so distasteful. He accused Iran of playing with fire after they launched a missile test and put them “on notice.” He ended a phone call prematurely with Australia’s prime minister. Australia is one of the few countries we have a positive trade balance with and they have provided military support in our ill conceived wars.

Our dictator would do well to study our past presidents. President George H.W. Bush assembled a coalition of many countries before he invaded Iraq to drive the Iraqi military from Kuwait and accomplished the job in days. President George W. Bush forgot his father’s teachings and went into Iraq without proper preparation and we still have troops in Iraq. The greatest feat of President Barak Obama was to force Iraq and other countries in the middle east to protect their own interests with some support from the U.S. History would view our dictator in a much better light if he ended military actions we are involved in and made more friends around the globe.

The True Cost of War: Soldiers Killed. May They Rest In Peace.

Justin Allen 23, Brett Linley 29, Matthew Weikert 29, Justus Bartett 27, Dave Santos 21, Jesse Reed 26, Matthew Johnson 21, Zachary Fisher 24, Brandon King 23, Christopher Goeke 23, Sheldon Tate 27.

These Marines gave their lives this week for you. There’s no media for them at all — not even a mention of their names.

God Bless our Heros and the families they leave behind. Amen to them and their beloved families. Thank you for your service. Praying to bring comfort to their families and friends during this difficult time. May they rest in peace.

Comments: Stefanie L. Dragos: These are our children and grandchildren! Let their names be shouted to the heavens and their families be comforted with the love of our nation.

— Ellen Gresham, posted on FaceBook 4/30/17



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

JUDITH MATHERNE, ROCKWALL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CHAIR

Three years ago I wrote a Letter to the Editor warning of the corporate take over of the U.S. by the Koch brothers. It is happening and we must resist the rewriting of the Constitution that is being proposed by Gregg Abbott and other Republican governors.

Resistance Report

— Tom Cahill March 27, 2017

While we obsess over Trump, the Kochs are quietly funding a project to rewrite the Constitution. Trump is providing the perfect cover for the billionaire Koch Brothers to enact their most villainous plan yet — permanently altering the Constitution.

It's no secret the Koch Brothers — longtime funders of GOP candidates and causes — hate Trump, having refused to back him with their bottomless wealth in the 2016 election. They resurfaced during the short-lived Trumpcare debate, when they made it clear that any GOP Congressman who voted for the ill-fated bill would face a well-funded primary challenger in the 2018 midterm election cycle. What the Kochs are planning next could have effects that ripple generations into the future.

Currently, the GOP control 32 state legislatures, and 33 governors' mansions, in addition to having majorities in both the U.S. House and Senate. That's right on the cusp of what the GOP needs to pass and ratify constitutional amendments. According to our founding documents, if two-thirds of each house of Congress approves of an amendment, the amendment can be ratified and officially added to the Constitution when three-fourths of the states agree. Current partisan control of state legislatures as of March 2017

Since three-fourths of 50 states is 37.5, Republicans only need to conquer six more state legislatures to have a constitutional amendment supermajority. However, Article V of the U.S. Constitution stipulates that only two-thirds of states (34) are needed in order to trigger a Constitutional Convention, where amendments can be proposed and voted on. This means if the Koch Brothers successfully widen GOP majorities in Congress and in state legislatures around the country, they would have few barriers to pass amendments.

One of the amendments that Koch-funded groups like Americans for Prosperity is calling for is the Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA), requiring the federal government to never operate with a budget deficit. While this may sound good from a business perspective, it would mean that the federal government would be forced to severely cut spending for a wide array of necessary federal programs in order to meet the amendment's requirements.

Macroeconomic Advisers — an economic forecasting firm — said that if a BBA were passed and ratified by the states, it would “retard economic growth” and be “catastrophic” in times of recession, as the severity of the federal budget cuts would kill millions of jobs and slow consumer spending to a halt. Local economies would suffer at depression-level rates.

If the 2012 budget were balanced through spending cuts, those cuts would have to total about \$1.5 trillion in 2012 alone, which the report estimates would throw about 15 million more people out of work, double the unemployment rate from 9 percent to approximately 18 percent, and cause the economy to shrink by about 17 percent instead of growing by an expected 2 percent.

While this may have seemed like a right-wing pipe dream at the time the BBA was conjured up, its passage becomes much more likely if the GOP is able to secure larger majorities in the coming elections. In February, Wyoming became the 29th state to pass a resolution calling for a Constitutional convention specifically to pass a Balanced Budget Amendment, meaning only five more states are needed.

One of the leading groups organizing the push for a Constitutional convention is Citizens for Self-Governance (CSG). The Center for Media and Democracy reported that CSG is largely funded by shadowy groups with ties to the Koch family to the tune of \$5.4 million between 2011 and 2015. Donors Trust, a preferred secret money conduit for individuals and foundations in the Koch network of funders, has given CSG at least \$790,000 since 2011. The Greater Houston Community Foundation, which is funded by Donors Capital Fund (linked to Donors Trust) and the Kochs' Knowledge and Progress Fund, has donated over \$2 million since 2011. The Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program, which has received hundreds of thousands of dollars from Donors Capital Fund, gave \$2.5 million from 2012-2013.

States that have passed Balanced Budget Amendment resolutions did so with the help of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), which is a marriage of corporate lobbyists and GOP state legislators who come together at conferences to draft bills friendly to business interests behind closed doors. Draft legislation is then introduced in statehouses by ALEC member lawmakers, with a handful of words changed to reflect that particular state. The language in a Wisconsin GOP lawmaker's resolution is remarkably similar to ALEC's draft legislation. CMD estimates that ALEC has received at least \$1 million in funding from Koch-related organizations.

Ready, Set, Health

The only sure way to defeat this effort is to ensure that GOP control of statehouses and Congressional districts is scaled back with grassroots efforts over the next four years. Project Swing Left has identified multiple GOP Congressional seats vulnerable in 2018.

Tom Cahill is a senior editor for the Resistance Report based in the Pacific Northwest. He specializes in coverage of political, economic, and environmental news. You can contact him via email at tom.v.cahill@gmail.com, or follow him on Facebook.

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

ARTICLE

Ok. Hang on to your hats. My comments to EPA

—John Forslin

I went to college in the late 1960's at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. When I went there, the Red Cedar River smelled bad and was literally fenced off from public access. Because EPA water rules came into effect, today salmon swim in that river all the way from Lake Michigan and go even further upstream, and the river is an attractive feature of the campus. Similarly, the Carp River here in Marquette (in the upper peninsula) not long ago was heavily polluted with sewage and effluent from towns upstream. Today, it is an important and noted premier fishery, generating revenue and providing a superior recreation opportunity for residents and tourists. Again, EPA water quality regulations brought about this change. In what twisted logic would it make sense to let these rivers, and thousands of others, go bad again?

School children miss 10.5 million school days annually due to asthma, primarily in areas downwind of coal power plants and in poorer communities, many of which are minority dominant. The list of toxins and particulate that get into our air from coal combustion is long and egregious. We just do not need any more of this stuff in our shared air. And that's the point: our atmosphere is a common natural resource, like lake water and the game fish in them. If someone wants to use the resources, or is guilty of damaging the resources, they must compensate, they must desist. We perhaps did not understand that implication a hundred years ago, but we do now. A coal plant dumping pollutants into the air is dumping pollutants in my air, and I forbid it. Yours too. And the air that circulates in my lungs, my kids' lungs, my grandkids' lungs. Yours, as well. Again, it defies the essence of civilization to equate the health of the population, the health of the environment, the essential livability of the damn planet with marginally increased operating costs or reduced profit potential. If commercial operations cannot withstand full payment for fully loaded operating costs, then they should go out of business.

None of our regulations were enacted on whim or caprice. They went through extensive fact-finding, legislative hearings aplenty and repeated public comment periods. They are in place because they protect the common good, and represent our government watching out for the health and welfare of the people in the finest tradition of public service.

The current "review" process is inherently pernicious and rooted in a deep disrespect for our natural resources and the health of the people. If anything, contemporary data should be examined to see if regulations can perhaps be tightened in some areas to bring regulation up to current understandings of the public costs and public risks being incurred by the people because we did not have the guts to make polluters pay in the first place.

The carbon fee and dividend system being proposed by the Citizens Climate Lobby would be an excellent addition to the outcomes of this process.

[editor: John Forslin is a resident of the Upper Peninsula in Michigan. A current active environmentalist, he is a regular contributor on Facebook. We have been friends since high school - graduating from Wayne Memorial High School, Wayne, Michigan in 1965.]

Politics: The Perfection of the Art of Deceit!

— Charles E. Ford, Jr.

Bernie Sanders has a definite stand on political issues. The following partial list of Bernie's voting record, published on Facebook recently and is extremely deceptive. Neither Senators or Representatives have a line item veto. They must vote on the entire bill with any approved amendments. It is clear from the titles of the bill or motion being voted on that much more was involved than just the issue listed on Facebook. Note at least four of this sample refer to the same vote on the same bill on the same day at the same time. When this list was found and as per our procedure, we at the VOICE sent it to be fact checked.

1. **FB:** Though he [Bernie] voted a very reluctant "yes" on Lilly Ledbetter, Sanders still has the biggest pay gap between his male and female employees: <http://freebeacon.com/politics/senate-dems-betray-lilly/> Actual: Bernie voted in favor of the Justice for Survivors of Sexual Assault Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the Prevention First Act. How are we to judge the gender pay gap within his staff? Equal pay means equal pay for equal work. We have no idea who performs what function.
2. **FB:** He opposed legislation that would've maintained or created over 300,000 small business jobs via loans: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1993/roll188.xml> Actual: HR 2118, Supplemental Appropriations FY 1993, 5/26/1993 Question: Passage: 48 Dems voted No.
3. **FB:** Opposed efforts to increase funding for advanced technology projects: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll484.xml> Actual: HR 250, Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act 21-Sept-2005 Question: On Motion to Recommit with Instructions Bernie was the only Democratic to vote No. All Republicans voted No.
4. **FB:** Opposed Democratic attempts to prevent GOP cuts and increase funding for benefits aimed at legal immigrants, Medicaid, disabled, and children safety nets: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2002/roll168.xml> Actual: HR 4737, Work Act of 2002, 16-May-2002 Question: On Agreeing to Amendment
5. **FB:** Opposed federal funding to help homeless: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml> Actual: HJ RES 2, Making Further Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2003, and for other purposes, 13-Feb-2003 Question: On Agreeing to the Conference Report
6. **FB:** Opposed increased funding for nutritional programs for women, infants, and children: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1995/roll708.xml> Actual: HR 1976, Making Appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies for Fiscal Year 1996, 12-Oct-1995 Question: On Agreeing to the Conference Report
7. **FB:** Opposed increased funding for rural development programs: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1996/roll234.xml> Actual: HR 3603, FY 1997 Agriculture Appropriations, 12-Jun-1996 Question: On Passage
8. **FB:** Opposed additional funding for rural housing and development: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml> Actual: HJR RES 2 Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003, and for other purposes, 13-Feb-2003 7:00 PM Question: On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt.
9. **FB:** Opposed funding for assisting prospective homeowners with AIDS: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml> Actual: HJR RES 2 Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003, and for other purposes, 13-Feb-2003 7:00 PM Question: On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt.
10. **FB:** Opposed allowing breastfeeding on federal grounds: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1999/roll426.xml> Actual: HR 2490 Treasury and General Appropriations Act, FY 2000, 09/15/1999 Question: On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt.
11. **FB:** Opposed legislation requiring federal agencies to create and enforce anti-sex discrimination policies: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml> Actual: HJR RES 2 Making Further Continuing Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2003, and for other purposes, 2/13/2003 7:00 PM Question: On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt.
12. **FB:** Opposed legislation banning imports from forced child labor: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1997/roll474.xml> Actual: HR 2378 Treasury, Postal Appropriations, FY 1998, 30-Sep-1997 Question On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt.
13. **FB:** Opposed funding going towards investigations of unfair trade practices: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml> Actual: HJR RES 2 Making Bill Title: Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003, and other purposes Question: On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt. Actual: Question: On Agreeing to the Conference Report HJ RES 2 13-Feb-2003 7:00 p.m.
14. **FB:** Opposed legislation encouraging Pentagon to avoid using foreign imports over domestic ones: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll617.xml> Actual: HR 1588 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, 7-Nov-2003 Question: On Agreeing to Conf. Rpt. 12:04 p.m.
15. **FB:** Proposed withdrawing from WTO: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll239.xml> Actual: HJRES 27 Withdrawing approval of the U.S. from the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, 9-Jun-2005 Question: On Passage
16. **FB:** Opposed pay raises for various federal employees multiple times. <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll335.xml> while voting for his own pay raise: http://www.senate.gov/roll/roll_call_vote_cfm
17. **FB:** Opposed increased education funding: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
18. **FB:** Opposed increases funding for poor students: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
19. **FB:** Opposed legislation increasing financial aid: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
20. **FB:** Opposed twice increasing science funding for historically black colleges: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll513.xml>
21. **FB:** Opposed a bill providing massive support to the agricultural communities: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2001/roll371.xml> Supported cutting agricultural funding by ten percent: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1992/roll248.xml>
22. **FB:** Opposed increases agricultural funding: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
23. **FB:** Opposed increased funding for prominent farming communities: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
24. **FB:** Opposed increased funding for prominent farming communities: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
25. **FB:** Opposed funding for drought assistance: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
26. **FB:** Opposed funding for building and repairing farms <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll358.xml>
27. **FB:** Supported gutting oversight for agricultural marketing practices: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1995/roll550.xml>
28. **FB:** Opposed legislation marketing overseas agriculture practices: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1995/roll708.xml>
29. **FB:** Opposed increased food safety and inspection: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll032.xml>
30. **FB:** Senate Dems Betray Lilly. A group of Democratic female senators on Wednesday declared war on the so-called "gender pay gap," urging their colleagues to pass the aptly named Paycheck Fairness Act when Congress returns from break.

Original Source: freebeacon.com

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

BITS & PIECES - 1

Steve Love is a candidate for U.S. Senate, District 32 and a regular VOICE and Facebook contributor.

What do we want from our Members of Congress?

What qualifications do we want from our members of Congress? Some say they want a champion: a David to stand up to the Goliaths of the world – a defender of their side of the argument, whatever that might be about. That is a great idea, but it assumes an arena where conflict is the norm. Remember David and Goliath meet on a battlefield. Is that how we want to picture our Congress as two armies in mortal combat?

Now, I know that is what it sounds like but, as taxpayer, does that give us the most bang for our buck? I don't think so. If you want a David, maybe that football player-turned-attorney, who just got in the race, is your guy. I am not into political combat. The Framers got a lot done in Philadelphia to give us a Constitution, not because they came to town to do battle, but to find a middle ground which worked for all sides. That is what a mediator does.

I am a trained, experienced mediator. I have written agreements which have the authority of law; helped divorcing parents find a satisfactory parenting agreement. I have decades of experience getting people to talk and not yell across the room.

If you want to continue the political wars, go for it, but don't elect me. But do not think that because I don't believe that warfare is how things are settled that I will be a pushover. It takes as much courage to stand for respect as it does to question the integrity of another person.

If you want Congress to work for everyone, to find a middle ground, to cross over bridges built upon mutual respect and compromise, then I'm your guy. But don't take it for granted that I will get elected just because I am trying to be the adult in the room. If you want me, you have to help me with your dollars and your time!

Steve Love posted on Facebook 4/23/17

Steve is a candidate for U.S. Senate District 32

What About Bernie Sanders?

Sen. Warren was on Rachel Maddow tonight. I really enjoyed her comments on her new book.

She outlined how we built the middle class beginning in 1935 and how we began making it an endangered species in the 1980's. She blamed the Republicans not Hillary or The DNC for what happened to threaten the middle class.

I guess that is what just chaps my chops with Bernie. It is one stream of "gotchas" and "shouldas" and it is all necessary because the Clintons and the Democratic Party sold the middle class down the river.

It would be so nice if Bernie just shut his trap and got busy making the things, he says should happen, happen instead of whipping a crowd of people in a frenzy, which does not do anything to fix anything, rather that just add dollars to his 2020 presidential campaign coffer.

We got the diagnosis, Dr. Sanders, now tell us how you fixed the problem. If you cannot fix the problem, stop telling the world that you are their great savior. Some of us are actually older than you and have watched it happen in real time because it is part of our biography.

— Steve Love Facebook 4/20/17

On NAFTA

Today, the DMN published an article on the effect NAFTA has had on the Texas economy. The two metrics reported are export/import and job numbers. In both cases, Texas comes out ahead. We export \$12 billion more to Mexico than import and Texas created "almost 200,000" new jobs of the 900,000 created nation-wide. So, how did the self-proclaimed alpha "progressive" candidate of the 2016 campaign get it so wrong? Could it be that he looked at NAFTA from the perspective of a Vermonter that anything negative regarding NAFTA could be hung around Clinton's neck making it a convenient hot button issue? My point is that maybe Bernie is no more a fact-based voice than Trump when it comes to trade. Maybe those Texans who did not buy the Vermont view of the world of trade are the real progressives who need no 'voice' but their own.

— Steve Love Facebook 04/24/17



GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE DALLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CHAIR

Trump Lost; America Won! March 25, 2017

How Did President Donald Trump Lose His Chance to Repeal and Replace Obamacare? Let Us Count The Ways!

Trump Failed to Count His Votes

As former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) aptly put it: "He made a rookie mistake. He should have never scheduled the bill if he didn't have the votes."

On Thursday morning, March 23, 2017, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) informed President Donald Trump they did not have the votes to pass the bill, known as the American Health Care Act. Also known as the Obamacare Replacement Act, Trumpcare, RyanCare, and Fake Healthcare. The Freedom Caucus calls it Obama Lite. I call it "Trump Don't Care."

The Bill was scheduled for a vote that day because the Republicans thought it would be sweet to repeal Obamacare on the 7th anniversary of the day President Obama signed the ACA into law. Their plan backfired. All House Democrats opposed the Bill, and they didn't have enough Republican votes to pass the Bill. Ryan pulled the bill. Reporting again to Trump they didn't have the votes.

Trump Underestimated His Opposition

On Thursday, the big guns came in to persuade the no votes and undecideds to come over to the dark side. Trump, Bannon, Sean and Conway, all came over to Capitol Hill to close the deal. Trump tried charm, veiled threats, and telling members of the Freedom Caucus, "If it fails, then there will be a lot of people looking for work in 2018." Finally, Trump practiced his inner bully, "I'm gonna come after you so hard." They stood their ground.

Trump Underestimated His Shortcomings

On Thursday night, Trump reached into his bag of tricks and gave Congress an ultimatum. He was done talking, the Bill would be scheduled for a vote on Friday, March 24, 2017, they would vote it up or down and, if they voted it down, Obamacare would stay. It was a threat, a classic bluff and he didn't have a back-up plan. When he didn't have the votes on Friday, he didn't carry out his threat. He had the Bill pulled, to save face. By making a threat, and not following through, he lost (even more) credibility. Speaking of credibility, when you are pushing a health care bill, and the bill is opposed by the American Medical Association, the American Nursing Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and AARP, something is amiss.

Frankly, his credibility was already further damaged when the FBI, NSA, CIA, and the British government's foreign intelligence agency, all debunked Trump's utterly ridiculous, recklessly false tweets accusing Pres. Obama of wiretapping Trump Tower.

Trump Overestimated the Product

Anyone who bothered to read about the Bill was aware that it was a disaster. It no longer required health plans to cover essential health benefits (required by Obamacare), like: doctors' visits, prescription drugs, emergency services, ambulance rides, hospital stays, prenatal care, maternity care, pediatric care, pediatric autism services, rehabilitation care, mental health services and addiction treatment.

Aside from reducing coverage, the authors of the Bill included a prohibition of abortions and any funds to Planned Parenthood. Facts: 1) no federal funds are used for abortions; and 2) 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are to 2.5 million low-income patients per year for basic birth control, cancer screenings, and other preventative services.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) announced that the Bill would slash Medicaid by nearly \$900 billion and, in less than 10 years, 24 million fewer people would have health insurance. Of this number, the CBO estimated that 7 million Americans would immediately lose health insurance because the Bill eliminated the employer mandate, which requires big companies to offer insurance to employees. Additional factors weighed by the CBO in its analysis included: 1) tax credits provided to the wealthy; 2) the elimination of subsidies; and 3) authorization to insurance companies to increase premiums paid by older consumers as much as five times the current rate. And Trump wonders why the Bill didn't pass!

Trump Underestimated the American People

In his negotiations with Congress, Trump made one very fundamental mistake. He incorrectly assumed that he could manipulate congressional leaders, as he had long-manipulated his employees who needed their jobs, the small business owners whom he failed to pay, and the banks who were trying to avoid incurring losses, as he threatened, and then filed, business bankruptcy (four times). Trump failed to realize these congressional leaders did not work for him. They work for the American people. These constituents, many voicing their opposition to the Bill by calling the offices of their congressional leaders and demonstrating at their representative's offices every time they visited their district. Based on national polling, Americans opposed the Bill by a 3 to 1 margin (Quinnipiac poll). Only 4 out of every 10 Republicans supported it. These congressional leaders know these statistics, they want to be re-elected in 2018, and they do not want to be tied to Trump, who is saddled with a 52 percent disapproval rating. Under the circumstances, their constituents are much more of a threat to them than Trump.

Donald Trump has lost his shot

Trump's credibility is going nowhere but down. The Bill passed the House, but it is unlikely that the Bill, stuck in the Senate will pass. Republicans hold only a slim majority. Six Republican senators have already indicated they are not inclined to pass the Bill.

It's not too late to let Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) know we are vehemently opposed to the Bill. While we're at it, let's thank the Democrats of the Texas delegation in the House of Representatives for standing with us and voting against the Bill. The phone number for the Capitol Switchboard is 202-224-3121.

Yours Democratically,
Carol Donovan, DCDP Chair

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How things are done in Texas.



Texas Governor Says He Carries A Gun 'In Case I See Any Reporters'

After signing a bill lowering gun licence fees, Gov. Abbott went to a gun range for some target practice. At the end of his practice round, he proudly held up his bullet-scarred target sheet and threatened:

"I'm gonna carry this around in case I see any reporters."

F.Y.I to . Abbott: Texas is a "Stand Your Ground" state. An armed reporter would have the legal right to shoot back if Abbott carried out his threat.

TX Rep Matt Rinaldi, HD115R-Irving



threatened to "put a bullet in one of his colleague's heads" during a scuffle on the House floor over the state's new anti-'sanctuary cities' law on Monday, the final day of the regular TX legislative session.

No Fighting in the House!

Carol Donovan - DCDP Chair

Legislators got into a shoving match on the House floor on the last day of the 2017 Texas Legislative Session as 1,000 plus immigrant rights supporters protested in the gallery of the Texas Capitol. Assuming the protestors were "illegal," Rep. Matt Rinaldi (HD115-R.Irving) called I.C.E. and threatened to shoot a fellow legislator in the head.



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