



GUEST COMMENTARY

MENTAL HEALTH CARE REMAINS A PRIORITY

It's no secret that fiscal responsibility is sorely needed in Congress. Our nation is \$32 trillion in debt, American families hold a record \$986 billion in credit card debt, interest rates are skyrocketing, inflation remains persistent and small business optimism has plummeted to a 10-year low. Evidently, the American economy is in tough shape, largely due to President Biden's wasteful spending policies and reckless regulatory agenda. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must do better.

Unfortunately, President Biden refuses to change course. Even after flooding our economy with roughly \$6 trillion in new, unnecessary, government spending — which fueled the worst inflation crisis our nation has endured in more than 40 years — President Biden didn't learn his lesson. In fact, he doubled down on his failed economic policies. His \$7 trillion fiscal year 2024 budget proposes \$5 trillion in tax hikes and \$1.7 trillion in new federal spending every single year. His plan would increase taxes on our small businesses, eliminate vital tax provisions that help our farmers and producers succeed and dip into Americans' savings accounts. Even more concerning, his budget would grow the national debt to \$50 trillion by 2033.

Randy Feenstra
U.S. Rep.



our conservative alternative would slash \$16.3 trillion in wasteful government spending from our federal budget over the next 10 years, cut taxes for our families, farmers and small businesses by more than \$5 trillion and take real steps to reduce our national debt, which recently surpassed \$32 trillion.

I am also proud that the RSC budget includes two pieces of legislation that I introduced this Congress, the COST Act and Sarah's Law. The COST Act would pump the brakes on President Biden's forced transition to electric vehicles by requiring the Government Accountability Office and the U.S. Secretary of Energy to compare the financial and environmental costs between replacing the entire federal gasoline-powered fleet with either electric vehicles or E-85 capable flex-fuel vehicles. Sarah's Law — which honors the memory of 21-year-old Iowa native, Sarah Root, who was killed by an illegal immigrant who was driving while drunk — would detain, punish and deport violent illegal immigrants who harm or kill American citizens. These are both common-sense legislative victories that would defend American families from the Biden Administration's obsession with electric vehicles and protect our communities from President Biden's refusal to secure our open southern border.

The American people elected a Republican majority in the House of Representatives to stop President Biden's destructive policies, end wasteful government spending, promote American energy production, secure our open border and restore fiscal responsibility in the halls of Congress. As a fiscal conservative, I strongly support this Republican policy blueprint that will achieve these conservative priorities, balance the federal budget, reduce our \$32 trillion debt and build a stronger economy for our families, farmers and main street businesses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU FROM THE NATURE CENTER

On behalf of the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County and Dickinson County Nature Center, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Good Neighbor Fund of Dickinson County for the generous grant money that they recently awarded to us. This grant will directly support the installation of an outdoor musical instrument at the nature center, which will enhance the experience for all visitors, particularly children and families.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Good Neighbor Fund for their continued support and investment in our mission. We are excited to bring this new addition to the nature center and to continue providing educational and enjoyable experiences to all who visit. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our community.

— **TOM MASER, CONSERVATION FOUNDATION OF DICKINSON COUNTY**

IS TRUMP GUILTY?

The liberal national news media (ABC, CBS, NBS, PBS, WP, NYT) is reporting with glee that former President Trump has been indicted for a federal crime and will be going to jail for the rest of his life. Their real fear is that they are scared to death that in 2024 Trump could be reelected president. Maybe a look at the facts would be helpful.

Unfortunately, we have a two-tiered justice system in this country. Republicans are prosecuted and Democrats are given a free pass. When Hillary Clinton destroyed 33,000 national security emails and destroyed smartphones with a hammer — the Justice Department did nothing. The Justice Department has had Hunter Biden's laptop computer — that is full of crimes — for five years and has done nothing. Now Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley has evidence of 17 audio recordings of the Biden crime family — including "The Big Guy" — accepting \$5 million in bribes. The

national news media doesn't report that news.

Grand jury proceedings are supposed to be secret. Only the prosecutor can present evidence. An indictment is only an accusation. It is not proof of anything. The defense is given no chance to present their side of the story. We have yet to hear the Trump side to these unsupported accusations, while prosecutor leaks abound. The prosecutor only needs a simple majority of the Grand Jury to indict a person. There is an old saying about Grand Jury proceedings that is more truth than fiction: "the prosecutor could indict a ham sandwich."

The prosecutor in the case (Jack Smith) has a terrible track record of obtaining convictions in high profile cases. For example, in the case of Virginia Gov. McDonald, Smith has been reversed by the Supreme Court in a vote of 8-0. The trial of Sen. Menendez resulted in a hung jury. For the trial of Gov. John Edwards, the jury found Edwards "not guilty."

It is hard for a Republican to receive a fair trial in New York City, that is 68 percent Democrats or Washington, D.C., that is 76 percent Democratic. Almost all the national news media is based in New York City. As a result, the national news media only talks to Democrats, so they think their biased view is shared by all Americans. In the 2020 election Biden received 81 million votes — more votes than any president in history. Even more than the first Black president — Barack Obama. Biden only campaigned from his basement. How is that possible? In the 2020 election, Trump received 74 million votes — more than he received in 2016.

Fortunately, people in Iowa are not typical of those found in the northeastern United States. As an example, 77 percent of Republicans believe we do have a two-tiered justice system. And 71 percent of Republicans are willing to consider Trump for reelection. Keeping an open mind will result in a better outcome for our country.

— **PHIL PETERSEN, OKOBOJI**

GUEST COMMENTARY

MENTAL HEALTH CARE REMAINS A PRIORITY

The Iowa Legislature continues to prioritize expanding access to mental health care in every corner of the state by passing bills to recruit and retain mental health providers to Iowa. Below is a list of bills passed that help access to mental health care and have been signed by the governor:

John Wills
State Rep.



Psychologist Prescribing — House File 183 removes the requirement that a psychologist complete requirements within five years of being issued a conditional prescription certificate. This bill changes that the physician supervising does not need to be board-certified in specific specialties.

Psychiatrist Public Fellowship — House File 274 revises the state-funded psychiatry residency program that was established last session to include two fellowship positions. The program will annually graduate nine psychiatry residents and two psychiatry fellows.

Physician Assistants — House File 424 repeals requirements that physician assistants practice under the supervision of a physician and instead requires collaboration, including psychiatric PAs.

Commitment Hearings — House File 466 allows health care providers who have examined a patient involved in a substance abuse or mental health commitment to testify by video. Current law only allows for telephone testimony.

Mental Health and Disability Services — House File 471 comes from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to specialize the Independence Mental Health Institute to behaviorally complex youth and the Cherokee MHI to acute and forensic adults, makes changes to the Regional MHDS Governing Board makeup, and adds competency-based restoration to the core service domains of the MHDS Regions.

DISARM THE IRS

Why do paper-pushing tax collectors at the Internal Revenue Service need guns? That's the \$35 million-dollar question.

Since 2006, the IRS has doled out more than \$35 million of your tax dollars for firearms, ammunition and tactical gear, including \$10 million in weaponry and equipment since 2020 alone. You'd think this federal agency was preparing for battle.

We saw in the so-called "Inflation Reduction Act" the Democrats' intent on expanding the power and size of the IRS, increasing its funding by \$80 billion. Weaponizing this agency threatens Americans' wallets, and when agents are armed to the teeth, our lives and property.

According to a report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, special agents at the IRS accidentally fired their weapons more often than they intentionally fired them. And to make matters worse, the Inspector General could not determine if these IRS agents completed their "required" training. Still, the IRS is hiring in all 50 states, looking for agents who "must be willing to

Joni Ernst
U.S. Senator



use force up to and including the use of deadly force."

Americans should be gravely concerned that the IRS is armed, loaded and coming after them. That's why I'm leading the Why Does the IRS Have Guns Act.

This effort would disarm the IRS, auction off their guns to Federal

Firearms License owners and sell their ammo to the general public. The proceeds from these sales would go directly to paying down our ballooning national deficit. My bill would also relocate the IRS Criminal Investigation Division within the Justice Department, where it would work alongside other law enforcement agencies such as the FBI and DEA. Anyone with an ounce of commonsense knows that IRS agents shouldn't be playing SWAT team dress-up on the taxpayer's dime.

As the Senate's biggest foe of wasteful spending, I will continue shining a light on Biden's weaponized and oversized IRS. Between wasting money on guns, going after our small businesses and evading their own taxes, there is plenty more to expose. It's time to disarm the taxman and end this abuse of power and tax dollars.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WELCOMED

The Dickinson County News invites readers to submit letters to the editor with comments, criticisms, praise and/or questions about issues of interest. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters. An upcoming election will not be considered. Support for (and opposition to) specific political candidates in an upcoming election are best addressed as a paid campaign advertisement. Readers should also include their address and phone number to resolve any questions or to verify the identity of the writer. The author's name and town of residence will be printed. Specific street addresses and phone numbers will not be printed.



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The Dickinson County News (USPS 510-900 ISSN 1531-0159), an Enterprise Media publication, formerly Spirit Lake Beacon, Lake Park News and Milford Mail/Terrill Record, is published weekly for \$50 per year in the Spirit Lake area, 1721 Hill Ave., Spirit Lake, IA. Periodicals postage paid at Spirit Lake, IA 51360.