

Elected officials contact information

(Both letter writers on the school budget topic included a list of officials to contact. Here is the list.)

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National health care issues

Letter to the Editor:

Western countries have had national health care for many years. The United States Congress has attempted to establish national health care since the Harry Truman presidential administration. There is no question that national health care has provided a better, more civilized society. Even tiny New Zealand has national health care, which I could tell you some about its excellent program.

Our congressman, Bill Huizenga, being part of the "no" political party, writes his opposition to U.S. national health care. His writing suggests a philosophy of law of the jungle. (The weak die while the strong prosper.) Those who can afford health insurance do not seem to worry about cost, or building a better society. In their selfish view, they oppose national health care.

Our country was more than 30 years behind Germany in adopting social security. Today, obstructionism here has prevented progress also with lies and distortion.

We have much improvement to make on our present national health care law. Some congressmen have abandoned partisan politics in favor of benefit for an improved society. Congressman Huizenga should note the times, and move into the 21st century, instead of barking at the moon.

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House passes responsible state budget

Letter to the Editor

The Michigan House passed an omnibus bill that establishes the first state government budget to be structurally sound and balanced in many years. The omnibus format was chosen to help keep a tighter control on spending. Throughout the committee process, House Democrats tried to add \$2 billion in spending with no way to pay for it.

"We were elected to bring expenses in line with revenue — not the other way around — because people want us to balance the state budget without passing debt on to our kids and grandkids. In just a few months, we've been able to correct years of fiscal uncertainty because we are enacting real, structural spending reform that puts Michigan on solid financial ground," said Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall.

House Republicans are working on cutting nearly \$250 million more out of the state budget offered by Governor Rick Snyder, which had already cut \$1.4 billion from last year. Because the budget was done in an omnibus style, with all state department budgets in one bill, it's easier to spot irresponsible spending amendments. If a spending increase is proposed, the sponsor has to find a way to pay for it by reducing spending in another area of the bill.

"The over-arching priorities for House Republicans include scrutinizing government spending while reforming our tax system and government regulations to improve Michigan's competitiveness for job creators," Bolger said. "Last week, we took a major step toward making Michigan a more competitive place to provide jobs. Today, we saw House Democrats continue their fight to maintain a status quo that Michigan taxpayers can no longer afford.

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