

# The Sacramento Bee

Letters to the editor | February 19, 2017 6:00 AM

## Speaking up for a positive America

John Berthelsen does a good job showing the two sides of American exceptionalism. He doesn't mention a few more parts of the good side: America has been inspiring others to support health initiatives like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and malaria.

Most importantly, Berthelsen doesn't mention that it is up to each of us to determine which side of American exceptionalism will be used in our modern world. Our calls and letters to our elected representatives and our new president can make sure we stay on the side of saving lives and bringing hope to people in our world, and help prevent the "dark side of American exceptionalism."

*Willie Dickerson,  
Snohomish, Wash.*

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article133292974.html>

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# San Francisco Chronicle

## Letters to the Editor, Feb. 24

### SNAP support is necessary

Regarding “GOP congressman faces critics at town hall” (Feb. 22): In response to your coverage of California Rep. Tom McClintock’s Mariposa Fairgrounds and Exposition Center town hall meeting, I applaud him for listening to the interests of Americans who feel left behind by deepening national concerns. In addition to concerns about the Affordable Care Act and climate change, the congressman should know that 1 in 9 Californians relies on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Antipoverty programs are making an impact, reducing the poverty rate by half in many places across the country. SNAP serves as a lifeline to 43 million people, nearly half of them children. So it’s truly puzzling that some members of Congress are preparing to attack key pillars of our safety net programs, programs their constituents depend on to survive. I hope that McClintock is truly paying attention and will take positive action.

Now more than ever, we need Congress to focus on helping hardworking people across the country make ends meet, not put up roadblocks in their way. We must stand up against schemes to undermine the effectiveness of antipoverty health and nutrition programs via structural changes such as block grants and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

*Lori Saltveit, Corte Madera*

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URL: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letterstoeditor/article/Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-24-10955147.php>

# EAST BAY TIMES

Letters to the editor for April 7.

**Letters to the editor** | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: April 6, 2017 at 4:00 pm

## **Proposed increase for defense is just not a necessary priority**

The proposed federal budget increases the military budget by 10 percent, or \$54 billion to \$594 billion. The United States already spends more on the military than the next seven largest countries combined.

China is number two at \$170 billion. This budget would cut foreign aid by 30 percent and eliminate funds for National Endowment for the Arts along with many other worthwhile programs.

I personally find a great deal of pleasure and valuable information on National Public Radio. I also believe that we should actually increase funding to foreign aid, which is now a very meager .07 percent of the federal budget.

Helping low-income countries increase access to health care and education would make the world a safer place for all of us. This will make my America great again. I have always felt our country was great and find it offensive that some believe that it will take billionaires to make it better.

**Bill Nicholson**  
*Martinez*

URL: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/04/06/letter-writer-argues-recent-oakland-fire-exposes-housing-crisis/>

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## Lisa Schliff: Medicare voucher proposal a bad idea

April 9, 2017

In 1994, my sister Diana was struck in the head by a concrete building block that had rolled off a Caltrans hillside construction site and crashed through the front windshield of the car she was riding in.

Many years later she still suffers permanent damage, including visual, hearing, cognitive impairment and PTSD. Her ability to make a living as a legal secretary abruptly came to an end. Thank goodness Medicare covers a great deal of her many medical needs or she would be suffering even more.

If the present administration succeeds in passing the voucher proposal for Medicare, it will increase costs and risks for everybody who needs it. A voucher program would move Diana into poverty. Many other Americans with disabilities would suffer the same fate.

Please call, write, email Congressman LaMalfa to let him know that you don't want him to approve Medicare cuts for the Fiscal Year 2018. My sister and all senior citizens who have paid into the system should be able to receive the full Medicare benefits they so greatly deserve.

Lisa Schliff

Grass Valley

# The Sacramento Bee

Letters to the editor | May 07, 2017 6:00 AM

## **A way to create positive change**

Re “To resist Trump, look back to the ’60s and ’70s” (Forum, April 30): David Mas Masumoto’s resurrection of Saul Alinsky’s book on changing “power structures with organizing grass-roots movements” is partially right for these days. Better to add in the principles from “Reclaiming Our Democracy” by Sam Daley-Harris to find real change.

By speaking to, writing and calling our representatives and senators on a regular basis, relationships are built that foster discussion and change. It still involves maintaining pressure but skips the “combative strategies.” The Results organization that Daley-Harris founded (results.org) has used these methods successfully for 37 years to promote legislation that makes a difference in health, economic and education policies for America and around the globe.

Working with both sides of the aisle, Results volunteers have shown it is possible to make a positive difference. Under our current circumstances, these methods are needed now more than ever.

*Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.*

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article148711914.html>

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# The Mercury News

## May 26 Readers Letters

By Mercury News Readers |

Published: May 25, 2017 at 10:58 am

### **Trumpcare will only help the rich get richer**

Trumpcare will make us sick.

The Congressional Budget Office predicts 23 million Americans will lose health insurance under Trumpcare. Millions more will get lower quality care. The middle class, elderly, disabled and the sick all lose. Trump voters lose more than others.

But, the decimation pays for tax cuts for the wealthy.

It's a case of the elite getting their way over the rest of us, again.

**Georgia Platts**  
*San Jose*

Read more here: <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/05/25/may-26-letters-single-payer-costs-are-not-insurmountable/>

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# EAST BAY TIMES

## Letter writer urges Congress to keep Africa education funding

East Bay Times letters to the editor for May 30

**Letters to the editor** | Bay Area News Group

May 29, 2017 at 4:00 am

### **Partnership for education is simply too important to cut**

Imagine you are a dedicated 4th grade teacher in Chad with 100 students in a dirt-floored classroom with poor training, no books. Even though you are the only hope for 100 young people to learn writing and math and thus lift themselves and their families out of poverty, 50 percent of your students still cannot write their names.

Now, imagine that because your government, your local school district and community leaders have teamed with international programs like UNICEF in the global partnership for education, you have books, classrooms, running water and good training.

The U.S. has contributed to the global partnership for education since 2011. Thanks to the global partnership for education, many millions more children are being educated since the beginning of this collaborative and successful effort.

Yet, the administration has proposed drastic cuts in the global partnership for education budget. Urge your member of Congress to speak out in support of an increased U.S. pledge to the Global Partnership for Education.

**Sue Oehser**  
*Oakland*

URL: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/05/29/letter-writer-urges-congress-to-keep-africa-education-funding/>

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# EAST BAY TIMES

East Bay Times letters to the editor for June 8

**Letters to the editor** | Bay Area News Group

June 7, 2017 at 11:00 am

## **U.S. must not cut its poverty outreach around the world**

We simply must not cut funding to programs that are designed to alleviate poverty in the developing world. Somehow, Congress must find the wherewithal to maintain the goodwill we have managed to establish around the world.

Uneducated, malnourished people are certainly not the answer to the world's problems. Healthy, educated, hopeful people do not look for escape and war, but rather for opportunity.

Most of our development assistance is in the form of partnerships with the receiving countries who add at least 20 percent of their own budgets to these programs.

The U.S. contribution to this type of assistance is less than 1 percent of our own budget — any savings would be negligible.

**Tari Nicholson**  
*Martinez*

URL: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/06/07/letter-writers-decry-bullies-lazy-janitors-and-the-wave/>

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# The Sacramento Bee

Letters to the editor | June 10, 2017 5:00 AM

## Leading the way

California stands poised to lead the nation, this time in health care. Covering all Californians with affordable health care insurance would be an example for the nation. Nationally, 13 senators are rewriting the health care bill that passed the House. Time to write, call, or visit your senators and ask them to pass affordable health care for all Americans.

*Willie Dickerson, Snohomish, Wash.*

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article155412124.html>

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# EAST BAY TIMES

East Bay Times letters to the editor for June 13

**Letters to the editor** | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: June 12, 2017 at 10:00 am

## **Urgent need for more support of U.S. humanitarian outreach**

I would like to register my horror that President Donald Trump is threatening to cut global humanitarian aid by 30 percent for the 2018 budget and hopefully encourage others to take action. My friends at RESULTS have worked very hard to reduce the worldwide childhood mortality rate from 43,000 children per day in 1980 to 18,000 a day currently — which is still a tragic statistic that is preventable.

How can anybody justify making that statistic and others like increasing deaths due to TB, Malaria and AIDS worse? Now is the time to make some noise. One of many issues, but a really important one. I know Rep. Barbara Lee is an ally, but we need more support from all. Let's write, call and let our feelings be known.

**Margaret Wotkyns**  
*Berkeley*

URL: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/06/12/letters-complain-about-coverage-of-comey-cosby-trump-and-even-warriors/>

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## Jacqueline Finley: Trump's budget proposal short-sighted

June 14, 2017

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET IS VERY SHORTSIGHTED AND INHUMANE.

Randomly cutting funding for struggling individuals and families, whether in the United States or abroad, doesn't end poverty and human misery. It increases it. If redistribution of monies is deemed necessary, it needs to be done intelligently and with reflection in order to ascertain how to help, not hinder, those in need.

The president believes that haphazardly slashing social service programs throughout this country and the rest of the world will solve serious issues. He is showing his lack of depth and is falling prey to the adage that for every complex problem, there is a simple solution (that does not work).

People aren't machines. Casting them aside to sink or swim so that big business and wealthy individuals can garner more of the economic "pot" reeks of earlier times when robber barons ruled society and the less fortunate were viewed as unworthy of concern or assistance.

Americans, regardless of political affiliation, need to put party preference aside and demand that Trump's proposed budget be rejected. Much more time, effort and thought are needed lest we start casting people into the streets.

Jacqueline Finley

Grass Valley

# EAST BAY TIMES

Letters to the editor | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: June 15, 2017 at 6:00 am

## More support for U.S. humanitarian aid urgently needed

I would like to register my horror and encourage others to take action over President Donald Trump threatening to cut U.S. global humanitarian aid by 30 percent in the 2018 budget.

My friends at RESULTS have worked very hard to reduce the worldwide childhood mortality rate from 43,000 children per day in 1980 to 18,000 a day currently — which is still a tragic statistic that is preventable.

How can anybody justify making that statistic and others like increasing deaths due to TB, malaria and AIDS worse? Now is the time to make some noise. This is one of many issues, but a really important one. I know Rep. Barbara Lee is an ally, but we need more support from all. Let's write, call and let our feelings be known.

— *Margaret Wotkyns, Berkeley*

URL: <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/06/15/tri-valley-letters-for-june-23/>

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# EAST BAY TIMES

## Letter writers worry about dwindling foreign aid and lack of civility

East Bay Times letters to the editor for June 21

Letters to the editor | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: June 20, 2017 at 1:36 pm

### Worried about administration's policy plans about foreign aid

I am very concerned with the current administration's stance on foreign aid financing of programs involving poverty, health and child education for fiscal year 2018, which is to reduce funding by 30 percent or more.

Witnessing the tragedies of events such as the refugee crisis makes it imperative that the U.S. government at least maintains our current funding levels and, more importantly, increase our efforts to help children and mothers, especially, who are most in need of health and education assistance.

I request Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris and Rep. Mark DeSaulnier to protect and expand funding and assistance for these programs.\

**Ricardo Narvaez**  
*Concord*

URL: <http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/06/20/letter-writers-worry-about-dwindling-foreign-aid-and-lack-of-civility/>

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# Michele Spencer: Support Global Partnership for Education

September 1, 2017

As our kids are returning to school after their summer break, it is important to realize that 263 million children and youth do not attend school globally.

Global Partnership for Education (GPE) has been successful in reversing this trend and is currently mobilizing world leaders to support its plan to give 25 million more children, living in the world's most low income and fragile countries, a quality education. Education can radically change the trajectory of not just a child's life but the life of her community and nation. Educated children are less likely to be recruited by terrorists. Global education is the best route to world peace and stability.

Congressional Resolution 466 is currently circulating in the House for members to sign to show support for Global Partnership Education's plan.

Write or call Congressman Doug LaMalfa's office today and ask him to sign HR 466 to show his support for this worthy cause. You can obtain his contact information or email him via his website at <http://www.lamalfa.house.gov> (<http://www.lamalfa.house.gov>), or you can telephone his Auburn office at 530-878-5035 and leave a message with his staff. Make a difference.

Michele Spencer

Grass Valley

# Lisa Schliff: Why the attack on SNAP by Congress?

September 1, 2017

In September, Congress will return from recess to attempt more slashing of anti-poverty programs that have helped so many low-income families. One of the most effective and important of these is SNAP (food stamps).

SNAP has allowed millions of Americans to get food on the table when they have been laid off, injured or disabled. SNAP kept 4.6 million people from descending into poverty in 2015, according to the U.S. Census.

So why the attack on SNAP by Congress?

Conservatives want to convert it into a block grant, a sneaky way of shifting most of the expense from the federal to the state budget. This will shortchange the program and force people deeper into poverty. Nearly one in five children in the U.S. lives in a family struggling against hunger. Children are our future. We owe it to them to fully fund this anti-poverty program. Now is the time to call our members of Congress and ask them to safeguard SNAP from cuts and block grants.

Those who need the help right here in Nevada County and throughout Congressman Doug LaMalfa's District 1 will be grateful.

Lisa Schliff

Grass Valley

# The Press Democrat

## Wednesday's Letters to the editor

December 19, 2017

### Just plain wrong

EDITOR: With one in eight Americans below the poverty line, why would we jeopardize health, nutrition and other basic programs just to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy? The tax plan now moving through Congress threatens the future of basic assistance for millions of hardworking, low-income families, all to deliver huge tax cuts to millionaires and big corporations.

I was glad to see that Rep. Jared Huffman gets it and that he co-wrote "Close to Home: Disaster food programs at risk under GOP budget plan" on Sunday in support of SNAP and the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

This year we've already seen attempts to gut essential programs like Medicaid and SNAP. So after giving away \$1.5 trillion in tax breaks to millionaires, those same critical programs are on on the chopping block. This is bad public policy and just plain wrong.

LORI SALTVEIT

Corte Madera

URL: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/opinion/7780754-181/wednesdays-letters-to-the-editor>

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