

Facts Matter

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**Opinion**

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“Our aim:  
 To fear God,  
 tell the truth  
 and make money.”

H.C. Paddock  
 1852-1935



**Your views** Most days, the Opinion page is built around our view. Today, we turn it over to you.

**Congress not keeping up with social media**

I read with interest the Daily Herald's recent editorial about my bill to force the divestment of TikTok by the Chinese company that owns it. That bill passed by an overwhelming, bipartisan majority because members of Congress are greatly concerned about the Chinese Communist Party's access to the personal data of TikTok's American users, as well as TikTok's repeated false statements to Congress about the nature of its American operations.

The editorial goes on to suggest extending privacy protections to all social media platforms, regardless of their ownership. I agree. Congress needs to do more to regulate those companies and ensure that their user data is protected.

The truth is that Congress has not kept up with the explosive growth of social media and the serious privacy concerns that have emerged. With my bill affecting TikTok as a start, I will continue to work for more comprehensive legislation to protect the privacy of the millions of Americans who use and enjoy social media.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi  
 Schaumburg

**Why we must protect our democracy**

Democracies protect freedoms. Land mines that can lead to its destruction are now being planted in many ways, sometimes subtle and often unheeded. The urgency of now calls for its protection.

There are some countries where people have very little rights, little voice or no voice at all: Totalitarian North Korea, when marking the 10th Anniversary of the death of Kim Jong II, forbid its people from grocery shopping, drinking alcohol, laughing or engaging in leisure activities, under the threat of criminal arrest or execution. If a family member died during the mourning period, the family was forbidden to cry out loud. Millions, including babies and children, starve to death, with no government assistance.

In autocracies like Russia, free and fair elections are hijacked, journalists assassinated, those practicing religious freedoms are detained and often never seen again and voicing opposition to the current government leaders can result in imprisonment or execution. Saudi Arabia discriminates against its women. They cannot choose their marriage partners, are not protected during domestic violence cases and have no legal rights to their children after a divorce.

Since 2017, in The People's Republic of China, where over a million have been imprisoned and held in forced labor camps, they force sterilizations on women, regulate the number of children one can have and lawyers, legal assistants and activists defending jailed government critics are arrested and detained.

Without democracy, voices are silenced and freedoms denied. “We The People” is the foundation of our freedoms. The current state of our national discord calls for us to stand up and protect our democracy. If we don't, it will die and when democracies die, autocracies are born.

Antonia Harlan  
 Naperville

**City police, public must work together**

All members of the Chicago Police Department and the public at large need to meet with each other and discuss strategies and procedures so some understand how to trust and respect each other's boundaries and not fighting and paying huge amounts of money for lawsuits. The public and CPD needs to understand and respect the importance of not being combative because nobody wins and nothing gets resolved but tempers flair up as we have seen and tax dollars pay the steep cost.

The unfortunate payment of mega dollars that the City of Chicago pays should be taken seriously and an indication of CPD lack of

**Guest view**

*Having Alzheimer's is hard enough; stigma, bureaucracy make it harder*

We come before you today as mother and daughter, Terrie and Shon, Alzheimer's patient and caregiver.

When I, Terrie, was first diagnosed with Alzheimer's nine years ago, I gave myself a minute to cry. Sixty seconds later, I picked myself up, and decided to accept my diagnosis and find a way to live with it.

I was then — and am still — determined to be dancing around the nursing home until the end.

But tenacity alone won't keep me dancing. There is no cure for Alzheimer's, though powerful treatments are available to alleviate symptoms.

Unfortunately, due to the stigma associated with some of Alzheimer's most challenging symptoms, many patients aren't receiving the care they need. Shame surrounding common issues like depression and mood disorders still deters many patients from seeing medical professionals who can treat them. This stigma even permeates our healthcare system, with programs like Medicare often refusing to cover essential psychiatric medications.

That has to change. Medicare and our healthcare system can help by ensuring that Alzheimer's patients in need of psychiatric care get them.

For the two of us, the past nine years have had their share of ups and downs, but the last few have been especially hard as the disease continues to progress. I, Terrie, am unashamed to tell you that I have developed neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) as a result of my Alzheimer's.

Cognitive impairment and memory loss are the hallmark symptoms of Alzheimer's — in fact, forgetting people's names and getting lost were what led me to consult a doctor. NPS are the lesser-known symptoms that also come with the disease. They include depression, anxiety, anger, aggression, apathy, hallucinations, agitation and more.

indiscretion regarding police policy. When law enforcement exceeds the letter of the law where some abuse is overlooked, CPD needs to review the training and/or some law enforcement officers should be retrained, removed or stricter rules need to be implemented, including FOP needs to address this problem.

Richard J. White  
 Elmhurst

**Democratic leaders are not prepared for crisis**

Sen. Chuck Schumer should resign his position. Calling for a new vote from a democratic country, which is also an ally, is unprecedented and quite embarrassing. It just goes to show how weak-kneed our Democratic leaders are. Both President Biden and Schumer are bowing down to their far-left supporters who have no issue with terrorists. Why would a country stop in the middle of a war when the enemy isn't defeated? We didn't do it in WWII. We didn't do it against ISIS.

As we have experienced with the rise of crime in our country, not to mention the chaos at the border, our Democratic leaders aren't well versed in handling these matters.

Dan Caponigri  
 Addison

**A lesson in foreign interference from Haiti**

Here we are today with Haiti literally in a state of disaster. If you have been around a while you'll



Shon Lowe and Terrie Montgomery  
 Guest view

I'm experiencing a number of these symptoms. For example, my patience is growing short, and I become agitated more easily. I don't like being this way, but I know that I have a disease with symptoms I cannot control. And that's why I'm unashamed.

But there's a stigma surrounding NPS that can make people ashamed and keep them from seeking professional help, even though 97% of Alzheimer's patients develop some NPS. Feelings of embarrassment, confusion and frustration can dissuade patients and their caregivers from seeking further medical help.

One in nine Americans over the age of 65 has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. But for every patient, there are even more family members providing care through good days and bad days. As one of my mother's caregivers, I, Shon, know firsthand what it's like to watch someone you love change.

Caregivers — daughters and sons, wives and husbands, nurses and clinicians — are working to end the stigma around NPS and accept the changes in behavior of the people we love. As my mother's patience waned, my patience has grown. I know now when to lean in and when to step back.

Unfortunately, the stigma is in our healthcare system too — and patients and caregivers need more help in managing NPS than we are currently getting. Healthcare systems place unwarranted restrictions on the proper medication for these genuine psychiatric

remember when that wasn't the case.

I have a personnel experience which keeps this highly focused. In the early 1980s the company I worked for acquired a business that had operations in Haiti. I was given responsibility for it.

At this time, Jean-Claude Duvalier was President. He had succeeded his father Francois Duvalier. Together they ruled for 30 years.

They brought the country to a business position by having both a port for cruise ships to stop at and more importantly company manufacturing. During the early 1980s, the country was in the best condition it ever had been. Make no mistake, they were tough, and some would say overpowering. But they were pro-economy and anti-Communist.

Around this time, the first case of AIDS was diagnosed. It turned out the individual had been to Haiti, and it was quickly linked to Haiti. As a result, all cruise ships stopped going to that port. As it later turned out, it was not connected to Haiti, but the damage was done.

The business community still flourished, but late in 1980s, pressure was put on the president by the U.S. and other countries to be more liberal about the governments process. Eventually they put pressure on the president of Haiti to resign. In so doing, to this day, the country has gone through countless presidents none of which could resettle the country or economy. By 1990, virtually all the businesses had left Haiti.

There is a lesson to be learned here, neither the U.S. nor any other country has the right to dictate

problems.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has limited Medicare beneficiaries' access to antipsychotic medications for more than a decade now. Restrictive CMS guidelines encourage providers to avoid the best medications for NPS and instead treat them with less effective medications.

In order to avoid abuse of these medications, CMS collects data nationwide on the use of antipsychotics in nursing homes. But this can lead to avoidance of their use when appropriate. CMS should exclude patients prescribed antipsychotics to treat NPS associated with Alzheimer's and dementia from being tallied in these databases, since including them can disincentivize providers from prescribing the best possible treatments to patients in need.

After my diagnosis, I, Terrie, gave myself exactly a minute to cry because I knew I had to stay active and keep busy. The stigma associated with Alzheimer's patients forced me to retire eight years earlier than I planned. Now I use my time to advocate for others and help ensure the voices of more than six million Americans with Alzheimer's are heard.

Only when we come to accept our condition, and the conditions of our loved ones, can we begin to better ourselves. Breaking the stigma around NPS will allow Alzheimer's patients to find the best treatment plan available.

We don't get to choose the hand we are dealt, but with the right resources, we can play it as best as we can. In due course, only one of us will remember writing this piece. But right now, we both fully share the hope that it makes a difference.

• Terrie Montgomery, who is living with Alzheimer's disease, and her daughter, Shon Lowe, live in Glen Ellyn.

another country's policies. In most cases, they know better than anyone else, the issues they face.

So, let's not tell anyone how to run their country, such as Israel. The track record isn't so good in the past. And frankly the U.S. has our own problems.

Richard Francke  
 Bartlett

**Parking project will make zoo better**

I noted with interest the Wheaton Park District's plans to expand the parking lot at Cosley Zoo.

Our extended family visits the zoo often, especially at festive times of the year. We truly enjoy the spacious grounds, exhibits and the animals.

As a long time member of the Wheaton community, I take a great deal of pride in our city, Community Unit School District 200 and our parks. Indeed, I have served all of these units of local government in varying capacities as a volunteer and as an appointed and an elected official.

After much thoughtful consideration and discussion with many members of our community, I firmly believe that this modest expansion of the Cosley Zoo parking lot will serve the needs of zoo visitors and the greater Wheaton community. My support is based on the park district's long history of being a responsible neighbor to the residents of Wheaton.

The parking lot project continues to be a transparent process as it works its way through the park

district's planning process, City of Wheaton's public hearings and the scrutiny of the DuPage County Board. Environmental and public safety concerns have been addressed at every stage of this process.

Special attention has been given to the impact of neighboring properties, allowing for appropriate landscaping and fencing. I am happy to support this project at Cosley Zoo. It will only serve to make this wonderful facility even better.

Michael J. Gresk  
 Wheaton

**Charges against Trump are based on evidence**

It is galling to repeatedly have Republican pundits make the assertion that the multiple prosecutions of Donald Trump are a political plan executed by the Biden Administration rather than legitimate action by the justice system.

Byron York in a recent column states that, “Garland knows the president wants him to get Trump.” He implies that this “lawfare” is the sole reason Donald Trump faces multiple prosecutions, both civil and legal, in multiple states. He ignores the fact that the criminal counts that the former president faces are the result of deliberations by grand juries made up of citizens chosen regardless of political party, as required by law. It was the evidence presented to the grand juries that resulted in Trump's trials and in the end will decide his guilt or innocence. Period. He will be convicted or acquitted when his trials are held, which should be as soon as possible, regardless of the election. After all, it is axiomatic that “justice delayed is justice denied.”

Why, then, has Mr. Trump engaged in every possible maneuver available to ensure that these trials are delayed until after the election? If the accusations hurt his campaign and he is innocent, let the courts decide and put these accusations behind him.

It is the continued presentation of repetitive and preposterous arguments by Mr. Trump's attorneys, which do nothing more than defer justice, that lead many to believe that Trump and his followers know that he will be convicted and that his only hope is to use the “get out of jail free” card, the presidential pardon, that his election would provide.

Byron York may think the legitimate action of the courts in pursuing a suspected felon is “lawfare,” I believe it is more a case of Mr. Trump reaping what he has sown.

James M. Wisniewski  
 Roselle

**End delays on expansion of Child Tax Credit**

How long must families wait? It's been nearly two months since the House has passed a bipartisan expansion of the Child Tax Credit and sent it to the Senate. Estimates are that this bill will benefit 16 million children in families with low incomes, including 5.8 million kids under the age of six.

You would think that in an election year, Congress would be eager to pass a tax cut for families (and small businesses). But a few senators are blocking it for political gain. Families should not have to wait months for Congress to pass something that is both popular and necessary.

It is time for senators to show us their hands. If the bill passes, families win. If it fails, senators can explain to voters why they chose to keep children in poverty.

When the Senate returns to Washington after Easter, I urge our senators to demand an immediate vote and then vote yes on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

Russ Ziegler  
 Downers Grove

**Join the conversation**

We welcome your comments (300-word limit). Letters must include your full name, town and phone number. Letters are subject to editing and may be posted online. We do not guarantee publication of every letter.

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