

OPINION

ANOTHER VIEW



COMMENTARY

STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA, R-BIG FLATS

Time to end government by executive order

Since March, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued thirty-three Executive Orders that allowed the governor to unilaterally change at least 250 state laws — as well as implement rules and regulations and make spending decisions — without legislative approval.

Emergency executive powers were necessary at the outset of the COVID-19 response, which required quick decisions on a rapidly changing public health crisis. This public health response has worked and that's a great credit to so many across the local, federal, and state spectrum of agencies and organizations, public and private, who stepped up.

It's a tribute, to the admirable cooperation, perseverance, and sacrifice by thousands of essential workers and millions of New Yorkers who implemented and honored the public health safeguards. Thank you.

Now we move forward and begin finding solid ground again. We do that by keeping careful watch on public health while working in earnest to repair the unprecedented economic pain that's been inflicted.

We keep going, keep holding the line, and keep reassessing the response.

Nearly three months down this new road, it's time to end government by Cuomo executive order. Endless executive orders are a recipe for failure.

The Legislature needs to step in here and deliver not only a strong voice for upstate regions, but some common sense as well. The move into the Phase 2 reopening upstate, for example, has caused unnecessary anger, exasperation, and frustration, not to mention the prolonged hit delivered to our livelihoods and local economies.

Last week, I joined other

Senate Republicans to move legislation that, if enacted, would have immediately ended the governor's unilateral emergency powers. Our proposal would put New York's disaster emergency control policy in line with other states that limit an Executive's powers to 30 days and require legislative approval for extending them.

(Our news conference, including my comments, can be viewed here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2020/thomas-f-omara-omara-time-rein-cuomos-executive-powers-end-government>)

The legislation would also mandate that the Governor provide weekly reports to the Legislature during an emergency declaration to ensure accountability and transparency — accountability and transparency that's woefully needed at this moment to, among other things, provide a full accounting of the Cuomo administration's spending on the COVID-19 response. Recall that a recent Buffalo News report estimated that the governor has already authorized at least \$3 billion on the COVID-19 response. Some question whether the spending is being done with the appropriate, independent oversight.

Unfortunately, our amendment was unanimously defeated by the downstate-led, extreme-liberal Senate Democrat majority.

The fact that NOT ONE Democrat Upstate Senator or member of the Assembly voted in favor of limiting Governor Cuomo's executive powers demonstrates loudly and clearly that Democrats in the State Legislature are not serious about checking the governor's current powers.

Overall, here's the point: A government without checks and balances goes too far and fails to be effective.

See O'MARA, B5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Big companies target pandemic relief funds

To the Editor: Remember Shake Shack and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, which returned pandemic relief money to the Treasury Department because they weren't really "small" and others needed it more?

The lack of oversight of Congressional pandemic relief funds is quickly becoming one of the stickiest problems for our Treasury. The desire of private equity firms, a.k.a. the "vultures of Wall Street", to get some of the money intended for small business owners in the bailout is a perfect example of what can go wrong when you're in a hurry to throw money at a problem.

According to a recent article "Big Private Equity's Lobbying in Bailout Meets with Little Success" (NY Times 5/6/20, B5): "Whether the industry should get government aid is a politically thorny question. The private equity business is one of Wall Street's most profitable, and the industry is sitting on hundreds of billions of dollars of spare cash that it has raised from pension funds and other investors...The industry's practice of piling companies... (that they acquire) with sometimes unsustainable levels of debt and its narrow pursuit of profits...have made private equity a target of critics."

The article points out that these private equity firms have spent \$3 million on lobbying to get some of the pandemic relief money. They would like to have a key restriction removed so that they can qualify.

And who is assisting them? Jared Kushner, for one, also the Problem Solvers Caucus, co-chaired by Corning's Congressman, Tom Reed (R-23). Tom's fellow co-chair, Josh Gottheimer, a New Jersey Democrat, spouts private equity's talking points — that small businesses should receive pandemic relief even if they are owned by large, rich private equity firms. But that goes against "the affiliation rule" which is meant to keep private equity firms from "vulturizing" pandemic relief funds.

How much of this dishonest backroom lobbying is the so-called Problem Solvers Caucus engaged in? Reed loves to flaunt his position in this group — but really — is this "problem solving"? Money from lobbying is one of our country's worst problems and requires oversight to be stemmed.

Dorothy Pomponio
Groton

Pandemic a chance to re-examine economy

To the editor: The event of the coronavirus has disrupted the structure of everyday life. That disruption has also opened up new possibilities for our future. For the new normal is only temporary, and what matters is whether or not the people control their own future. There is a lot of uncertainty as to how to reopen and restart the country, but what is certain is that we can not go back to business as usual. There are protestors who are demanding that the economy start up immediately, and they claim that their rights are being violated. But at the same time workers are going on strike to protest unsafe working conditions that exacerbate the spread of the virus. Those who want an end to the shutdown have defined their freedom in terms of the rules of corporate capitalism, ignoring the real threat of potential forced quarantine and potential increased surveillance. On the other hand, the striking workers are fighting for real freedom that includes the freedom from being exploited during a state of emergency. The conservative protesters believe in a freedom based on competition, whereas

the striking workers believe in a freedom based on cooperation. It is their actions that open the door to the possibility of a new kind of economy and overall society.

Darin Robbins
Corning

Where did my America go?

To the Editor: I was a child of the '60s (high school and college). It was a time of anti-government protests, sit-ins, general unrest because of the VietNam conflict. Then, marriage, kids, jobs, the things of life for about 30 years.

Fast-forward to the 2000's: I started watching the news again, and became very aware of political agendas and social manipulation, and my question became: "Where did my America go?"

God had been removed from schools and from many government buildings/meetings; the race issues re-surfaced with a vengeance; government control was far-reaching; everyone seemed to need a 'cause' to join; neighbor hated neighbor; 'labels' seemed to matter more than civility (liberal, conservative, socialist, patriot, gay, straight, rich, poor, male, female, etc.)

We need to stop it! People are more important than issues. Respect is more important than hate-filled debate. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are more important than a skewed political agenda.

Bottom line:

1. Love God
2. Serve and respect people
3. Look for less government intervention
4. Be more tolerant without compromising Truth

Gail Mitchell
Addison

COVID-19 response a model for climate change

To the Editor: COVID-19 is a public health crisis that has spilled over into an economic crisis. People across America are struggling, and Congress has responded by providing direct cash payments to families. Doing so was a bipartisan collaboration between the Senate, the House, and the Trump administration.

As we transition back to a sense of normalcy, we will begin again to focus on another looming crisis: climate change. When we do, we should remember the benefits of cash payments. Direct cash payments can help ease our transition off fossil fuels by supporting families through the major economic changes that will need to happen. Congress could put a price on carbon pollution, driving our economy away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy sources. Then they could put all the revenues in a pot, and distribute that money as an equal cash payment, or "dividend," to all Americans each month. Americans can then decide how to spend their dividend: they can buy something they already need or want, or invest in money-saving ways to reduce their carbon footprint. It would enable low- and middle-income Americans to cope with cost increases, and would benefit them economically.

Money in the hands of Americans is helping to keep our economy running. When COVID-19 is under control, let's use the same tool to combat climate change. Fortunately, there's already a bill in Congress written by Republicans and Democrats, H.R. 763, to do just that.

Kelly Smith-Frank
Horseheads

Who's watching them now?

School budget time again! Wonder who's holding our districts accountable? Not

kowtowing, compliant board members there for personal, selfish issues! Relying on organizations run on government models, where money is the solution, like education, is foolish negligence.

Corning's Sylvia Huber, Tom O'Brien and Lou Watson once confronted questionable conduct of the district. Sylvia sacrificed much time, energy, popularity, perhaps her life keeping the district honest.

In Horseheads, I served on the school board and a couple of time-consuming committees only to find the deck stacked insurmountably by educators in their favor. Methodology of deflection, stalling, hiding and lying, education's prevent defense, rope-a-doping questioners.

Educators do pretty much what they want. The education industry sets up systems comfortable for themselves, detrimental to students. On the micro level, locally no one confronts them anymore. Given that free hand, there is absolutely no reason for them not to stray to mediocrity and selfishness.

On the macro level, we see the corruption in education running rampant. Only certain ideas and ideals allowed on campuses. Diverse thoughts and theories banished and punished if voiced. Rich buying the "Golden Tickets" to supposed prestigious universities which gives them another "Golden Ticket" to the power positions of society. Control of the country given to overinflated, indoctrinated dolts.

Free college designed to pour tax money into social engineering, brainwashing the entire population. Independent critical thinkers be damned. Automatons led by their noses by elites, socialist, visionless, and lazy. Make no mistake, higher education controls public education, our districts.

Without tenacious citizen watchdogs like Sylvia Huber, our education systems, like government, will most certainly drift toward incompetence and corruption. That degradation causes decaying of our nation. Guardianship must pass to younger generations, shouldering the duty to confront these institutions gone awry, bringing integrity back into vogue.

Gerald J. Furnkranz
Millport

WIC program can make hard times easier

To the Editor: More and more children are being raised by grandparents or other caregivers in our community.

In fact, it is estimated that over 130,000 grandparents are raising grandchildren in New York state. Single fathers, foster parents, and other relatives like aunts and uncles, cousins and siblings are full-time caretakers for many children as well.

While there are a lot of reasons why a child may need to live with a grandparent, relative or foster parent, one thing is certain: there are services that can help make life easier.

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is a program that can do exactly that.

WIC provides healthy food, nutrition advice and referrals to other helpful services for children under age 5. Caregivers of a child under age 5 can apply on behalf of that child.

WIC promotes and supports a healthy lifestyle.

For free, confidential help with WIC, contact your local WIC Help Specialist at 607-377-4313 or DowdleA@proactioninc.org.

Amanda Dowdle
WIC Help Specialist, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates

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OBITUARIES & NEWS



Marilyn Jane (Cool) McCleary

Marilyn Jane (Cool) McCleary, beloved wife of Robert L. McCleary, passed away on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA.

Born in Westfield, PA on March 21, 1934, Marilyn was the youngest child of Leon and Leone (Gardner) Cool. She attended school in Troy, PA before graduating from Elkland High School in Elkland, PA where she was the class of 1952 Salutatorian. After high school, she was employed by Corning Glass Works (now Corning Inc.) as an executive secretary. She married Robert L. McCleary on June 9, 1956 and moved to State College, PA where she worked as an executive secretary at HRB Singer. In 1959, the couple moved to Charleroi, PA and Marilyn began a new career as a mom. Long-time residents of the

Corning, NY area where they raised their family, Marilyn and Bob also lived in Highlands Ranch, CO and Glenmoore, PA before moving to Willow Valley in 2011.

Family, church and giving back to the community were very important to Marilyn and no matter where she lived, she made it feel like home to everyone around her. She will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched through her kindness. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Corning, NY; Saint Andrew United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, CO; and Hopewell United Methodist Church in Downingtown, PA. She was a compassionate volunteer, offering her time and leadership to Cub Scout and Brownie troops, PTAs, church offices, the YMCA, The American Red Cross, and the Littleton Adventist Hospital volunteers. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family. The annual summer week in Chincoteague, VA with her family gathered together was a cherished tradition for the past nineteen years.

Marilyn is survived by her husband of nearly 64 years, Robert L. McCleary of Willow Valley; son Scott (Lynette) McCleary, of Alexandria, VA; daughter Jennifer (William) Butler, of Chester Springs, PA; grand-daughters Schuyler and

Kendall McCleary, both of Alexandria, VA; and brother-in-law Jetson (Gloria) McCleary of Oxford, FL. She was a beloved aunt and great aunt to her family across the country and had a special place in her heart for her niece Beverly (Charles) Wilson of Rocklin, CA and nephews Stephen (Marie) Cool of Marana, AZ; Ryan (Sharon) Lenox of Lawrenceville, GA; and Walter (Marie) Lenox of Mill Creek, WA. She also loved animals and provided a loving home to numerous cats over the years, including Chloe, who survives her. Marilyn was predeceased by her sister Beth C. Lenox and her brothers Duane Cool and Alfred Cool.

The family suggests memorial gifts in her memory may be made to THON (www.thon.org), LUMINA, 20 E. Clay Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 (www.luminaoutreach.org) or the Cat Angel Network, P.O. Box 3071, Stowe, PA 19464 (www.catangel.org/meow).

Services will be held at a future date.

To send an online condolence, visit SnyderFuneralHome.com.

Barbara Ann Jackson

Barbara Ann Jackson, age 78, of Painted Post, NY, passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at Guthrie Corning Hospital in Corning, NY, with her loving family by her side.



Barbara was born to Thomas and Madeline (Williams) Lavery on March 7, 1942 in Montclair, NJ. Barbara then grew up in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She married Andrew H. Jackson on May 5, 1973 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Corning. At the time of her passing, Barbara and Andy were married for 47 years.

Barbara deeply loved and tirelessly cared for her family. She was an especially devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, and aunt. Barbara also loved her many close friends.

Barbara loved teaching. She spoke often and fondly of her "Carder kids" and other students. Barbara said, "I loved the children and teaching so much that I would have done it even if they didn't pay me."

Barbara was proud of being a Cub Scout Den Mother and was a

communicant at All Saints Parish.

Barbara graduated from St. Mary's High School in Wilkes-Barre, PA (1959), earned her B.S. in Education at College Misericordia in Dallas, PA (1964), and her M.S. in Education from Elmira College in Elmira, NY (1987). Barbara was a certified permanent reading teacher.

Barbara was a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy in the Province of Scranton, PA for 12 joyful years from 1959-1971. She continued to treasure her dear Mercy friends throughout her life. Barbara taught from the 1960s to the early 1970s in Spangler and Northern Cambria, PA at St. Patrick School, Saint John Extension, and Northern Cambria Catholic School.

Barbara taught in Corning, NY, at East Corning Elementary School, Corning Free Academy Middle School, and Frederick Carder Elementary School. Barbara retired from the Corning-Painted Post School District in 2003 with over twenty years active service as an elementary and middle school teacher.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Andrew; sons, Andrew (Jennifer) Jackson of Highlands Ranch, CO, and Thomas Jackson of

Latrobe, PA; daughters, Ann (Brett) Nordman of Corning, NY, and Sr. Mary Jackson, FMA of Tampa, FL; sister, Kathleen Lavery of Chapel Hill, NC; grandchildren, Allison, Brian, and Brennan Nordman of Corning, NY, Evan Shank of Cortland, NY, and Claire, Sara, and Andrew Jackson of Highlands Ranch, CO; niece, Deborah (Jeff) Vacca of Hillsborough, NC; nephew, Norm (Jennifer) Weaver of Carrboro, NC; several aunts, uncles, and cousins; and many close friends, especially Kathleen Goldstein, Sr. Mary Glennon, RSM, the Balcerek family, the Dibble family, and the Shaddock family.

Barbara was predeceased by her son, Michael Jackson.

A Mass of loving remembrance will be celebrated for Barbara at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Barbara's name to: Salesian Sisters Ministry, 659 Belmont Avenue, North Haledon, NJ 07508 ATTN: In Memory of Barbara Jackson.

Barbara's family entrusted her care to Haughey Funeral Home, Inc.



Good credit matters even if you don't plan to borrow

By Bev O'shea
NerdWallet

Even if you don't plan to borrow a dime, a good credit record is valuable. Think of it like a household fire extinguisher: It's smart to have a good one even though you have no plans to use it.

And your credit can influence your life in ways beyond borrowing. Here's why good credit is so valuable.

Flexibility in a crisis, more options in general

If the coronavirus pandemic has taught us nothing else, it's that we cannot count on things going as planned. Flexibility is key.

A good credit score can help you borrow at a reasonable cost. That in turn could help you buy groceries and other necessities even as your emergency fund is dwindling.

If you use investments to help pay living expenses, as many retirees do, access to credit may help tide you over when the markets are down.

Good credit can also be useful in leasing a place to live, because landlords sometimes check credit to evaluate tenant applications.

Similarly, some employers check credit reports during the hiring process (although some jurisdictions restrict using credit reports in this way).

Savings you can put (or keep) in the bank

Good credit also can lower some bills. Nationally, a good driver with poor credit would pay an average of \$2,506 annually for car insurance. With good credit, the same coverage would cost \$1,427. Only California, Hawaii and Massachusetts prohibit credit data from being used in setting car insurance rates.

Credit-based insurance scores are also used to set homeowners insurance premiums in most states, except for California, Maryland and Massachusetts. Poor credit can increase the cost "10% to 15% typically," says Robert Hunter, director of insurance at the Consumer Federation of America. That works out to between \$50 and \$100 a year for most people, he notes. Renters insurance may also be higher for those with poor credit.

Utility companies often use information from credit reports to set security

deposits. Georgia Power, for example, uses credit scores to decide whether customers must pay a deposit, which can be up to two times the average monthly bill for the residence.

If you do borrow money, a higher credit score can earn you a lower interest rate, and thus, lower payments. And a cash-back credit card (typically available only to those with good credit) can give you money back without you paying a nickel of interest if you pay the full balance each month.

How to maintain good credit

You don't have to go into debt to maintain good credit. The two biggest factors in your credit score, accounting for about two-thirds of it, are on-time payments and the amount of your available credit you use.

That means simply paying all your bills on time goes a long way toward protecting your credit. On the other hand, paying 30 days or more past the due date can devastate your score.

If you do use credit cards, paying the balance in full is the best way to manage

those bills. Zeroing out the balance doesn't hurt your credit score, saves you from paying interest and ensures you're not using too much of your credit limit. If you can't pay in full, try to stay below 30% of your limit.

Other strategies that may help:

- Keep credit cards open unless you have a compelling reason to close them. Even unused credit cards help your score by raising your overall credit limit. The average age of your credit accounts also has a small effect on your credit score.

- Ask a friend or relative with excellent credit to add you as an authorized user. That adds their credit history on the card to your credit profile. You don't have to use or possess the credit card for this to help your score.

- If you are uncomfortable with a credit card, consider using it like a debit card by paying the balance as soon as a charge posts. The account adds to your credit history but you prevent worries about balances piling up.

Credit scores could drop during the pandemic as people rely more heavily on their credit and increase their balances.

DEATH NOTICES

Gary R. Knisely II

Gary R. Knisely II, 62, died Saturday, May 23, 2020 at Robert Packer

Hospital, Sayre, Pa.

Services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are with Sullivan's Funeral Home.

O'MARA

From Page B4

The same goes for a government under one-party control.

Of course, the most egregious example of the failure of government by executive order is occurring within New York's nursing homes, where unilateral decisions by the Cuomo administration have proven tragic.

Governor Cuomo can no longer be allowed to just issue another directive or another unfunded

state mandate out of Albany and leave this nursing home crisis to be addressed at the local level.

Here's what I wrote a few weeks in this column: "Governor Cuomo appears tempted now to go too far, too fast, unilaterally. It raises serious and significant legislative concerns."

We shouldn't allow it to keep going unchecked and risk our upstate regions, workers, businesses, taxpayers and communities paying an enormous price today, and well into the future.

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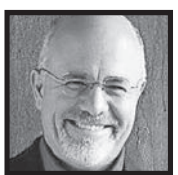
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Obituaries requiring pre-payment must be placed by Friday for Sunday or Monday publication.

The Leader is not responsible for any changes requested after deadline.

Teachable moments are valuable at any age



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave: A good friend of mine passed away recently.

In his will, he left me a couple of items and some money, and I'd like to share the money with my son.

He is 25, and a good kid, but he is still impulsive with his finances.

Do you have any advice for handling this in a way that will do him the most good? — Frank

Dear Frank: It's tough enough losing a close friend without having to worry about a grown son with money issues.

I'm sorry you're going through all this.

To be honest, I don't like the idea of just handing him money when you already know he's impulsive. I learned a long time ago that handing money to someone who's financially irresponsible is not a good idea.

Lots of people think other folks would be fine, and all their problems would be solved, if they just had more money. That's not generally the case.

You need to ask yourself

if giving this young man a bunch of cash would really, truly help him.

More than likely, the answer is no.

You obviously love this kid, and you've got a generous heart. But under the circumstances, it might be a good idea to attach a few strings to any cash. Don't make him jump through a bunch of hoops for no reason, though.

I'm talking about teachable moment - type things that will help train and educate him to handle his finances in a more responsible and productive way.

There are lots of paths you could take. You might require that he start living on a written, monthly

budget, that the two of you go over together for the first few months.

Sitting down with a good financial coach — one with the heart of a teacher — is something you might consider throwing out there, as well.

In my mind, this approach is fair to everyone involved. It allows you to help him help himself, instead of just handing him something that may or may not be a blessing. — Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at [@DaveRamsey](https://twitter.com/DaveRamsey).