

# OPINION

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

## A dangerous, failed law stays in place



Tom Omara

On it goes. Roughly 40 days since the state's "No Bail" law took effect and despite daily reports of the law's failure, Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Democrat majorities of the State Legislature keep waiting on the need to protect public safety as priority No. 1.

These so-called leaders keeping shrugging their shoulders and rolling their eyes (or paying lip service) at the daily calls for repealing a law that most reasonable people recognize is a serious threat to

our communities. Even far-left New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said last week that judges should be given discretion to consider dangerousness in determining whether to release a defendant. This comes amid a significant increase in crime, including robberies, assaults and grand larcenies in New York City since the No Bail reform was implemented last month.

It is irresponsible, at best.

Now the orchestrated pushback starts. The advocates of No Bail push back by leveling charges of fear mongering and sensationalism at opponents. Governor Cuomo largely stays silent. The leader of the Senate, Democrat Andrea Stewart Cousins of downstate Westchester County, remains noncommittal.

The Speaker of the Assembly, Democrat Carl Heastie of New York City, was at least transparent when he stated last week that since "this law has been in place, we saw thousands of people have been arrested and processed, but we're just hearing about six, seven, eight sensationalized stories."

Six, seven, eight sensationalized stories? Six, seven, eight stories a day, maybe, of people committing serious crimes, being released, and often ending up as repeat offenders, sometimes within hours. There have been deaths caused by offenders who should have been kept behind bars.

It is far from fear mongering when law enforcement leaders from throughout the state, including from right here

in the Southern Tier, willingly travel to Albany to join Senate and Assembly Republicans for a "Repeal Bail Reform" rally. Law enforcement helps deliver the core message: Put a stop to this madness. Stop putting us at risk. Stop putting the communities we serve in danger. Give judges the discretion they should have to keep dangerous criminals off the streets. Hold public hearings. Let's get back to work on achieving a more commonsense, safer and workable solution that accomplishes the necessary reform but that protects public safety as priority number one.

The controversial actions pushed by the governor and downstate legislative Democrats have raised alarms throughout New York's law enforcement

community. Among other provisions, the reforms eliminate cash bail and pretrial detention for nearly all misdemeanors and nonviolent felony cases, resulting in the mandatory release of 90% of those arrested, regardless of their criminal history.

At last week's "Repeal Bail Reform" rally, lawmakers and law enforcement officials alike charged that the No Bail law has created a system that releases violent criminals back into the community without supervision and risks the safety of their victims, the victim's family members, trial witnesses, and others.

Every day this No Bail law stays in place risks another tragedy. This government under

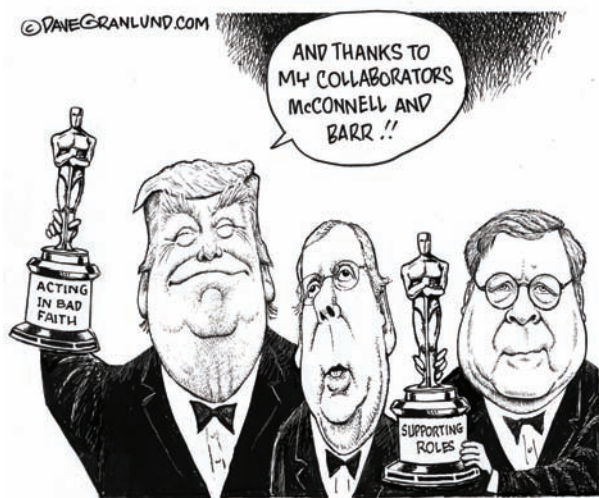
one-party control should do something besides letting a dangerous and unworkable criminal justice system keep playing out at the expense of innocent victims and safe communities.

Keep in mind that the law was approved without a single Republican vote. Many of my colleagues and I have introduced legislation that would inject fundamental protections back into the system. These proposals go nowhere.

Consequently, we keep doing our daily best to highlight the stories of the victims of this failed reform.

A "Repeal Bail Reform" online petition remains available on my Senate website, [omara.nysenate.gov](http://omara.nysenate.gov), for area residents who want to register their opposition.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Groups come together to help river

To the Editor,  
A river of thanks to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for cleaning up two homeless tent camps along the Chemung River in the last two months.

More than 3,000 pounds of trash and debris was removed from the illegal camps, one on Elmira's Southside near Dunn Field and the other in West Elmira, near the end of Decker Parkway East.

The debris could have easily washed into the river – our source of drinking water – during a flood or an ice flow, polluting the river and posing a hazard to fish and wildlife. DEC works to protect our environment and our clean water.

We also thank the Chemung County Sheriff's Department and DEC's Environmental Conservation officers for helping investigate the Dunn Field camp and to arresting an Elmira man responsible for the mess.

Chemung River Friends is not opposed to the homeless or anyone camping along the Chemung River, if they get the property owner's permission and they don't trash the site.

**Jim Pfiffer**  
Executive Director,  
Chemung River Friends

#### Beware the new Four Horsemen

*(Editor's note: This letter was edited for length)*

To the Editor,  
Democracy is about to

be trampled to death.

We all know the Four Horsemen; famine, war, plague and conquest. We now have to rename the Four Horsemen Trump, Barr, McConnell and the Republican Party.

The arguments that the Republicans are making are laying the foundation for a dictatorship, or a monarchy. The founding fathers made it clear that no person should be above the law, yet that is exactly what the Republicans are arguing.

To yield to a bully and let him have his way is all the encouragement he needs to further abuse his power and to threaten our very democracy.

If he wins, as the saying goes, you ain't seen nothing, yet, and all who have opposed him in this process should be concerned about their future well-being.

Three of the four horsemen exemplify how we are losing if we haven't already lost the separation of powers. You have the President, the head of the Senate and the head of the Department of Justice working for one purpose, to support an admitted abuser of power for his own gain.

People say they don't believe what the Democrats have been saying. They say they don't see the facts. Facts are documents to which there is no challenge, evidence is testimony given under oath and challenged through cross examination or admissions against interest.

The Republicans had their chance in the hearings to cross examine the witnesses and the witnesses' testimony stood up.

The Republicans'

hearsay evidence, or specious arguments to defend a man with no morals or understanding of right and wrong.

Those who don't see the facts and evidence and what they point to are either blind, never took civics classes or just don't care.

We are in a unique situation. We used to say the facts will set you free. Not anymore. Facts don't matter to those who blindly follow Trump and his patsy.

Loyalty is sometimes blind and in the current state of affairs loyalty is blinding many people who know better but can't admit it.

The economy was good in Germany in the mid to late 30s and people loved Hitler. When they woke up, it was too late.

Are we destined for the same fate?

We are about to be trampled by the Four Horsemen if we do not wake up and it won't be pretty.

**Jack Schamel**  
Chemung

#### God help us all

To the Editor,  
This week is full up. Football mania completely overtakes the Lord's Day, the State of the Union holds an hour of hope for conservatives who desire God's "old paths" for America, and the impeachment vote rallies socialists who would overturn the "old-ways" and usher in a full socialist agenda.

Christians have little cause for optimism.

President Trump's resounding successes in "Making America Great Again" cannot outcry the liberal left's media

megaphone yelling, "Throw the bum out."

Al Gore supposed in 2009 that by 2020 Washington DC would be underwater, and now the swamp drains are all clogged up with the depravity of man. The Bible announces, and history proves, that it always ends this way.

The CNNs of the earth set themselves, and the MS-NBCs take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed (Messiah) saying, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."

Christians from Chuckie Schumer's state, and maybe Shifty Shift's state, can remind others what the next verse in that Psalm says, but even we are appalled at how readily this liberal socialist depravity sweeps across all of America.

By their poll, half of America, the citirot half, prefers socialism. Christians are on the winning side, but there are some very dark Marxist days coming to America.

Jeremiah the prophet conveys God's plea to Israel and Judah that they turn back from their evil rebellion (600 B.C.).

They refuse, and finally God declares, "Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them" (Jer 11:11).

God has blessed America, and this is what she returns. (2020 A.D.) God help us.

**Dr Edward G. Rice**  
Pastor Good Samaritan Baptist Church  
Dresden

## CIRG Meeting

Wed., February 12th • 10:00 am

The February CIRG meeting is scheduled for February 12th at 10:00 at Bampa's House. Bampa's House is a comfort care home for the terminally ill to spend their final days in a peaceful environment located at 170 East First St, Corning. We will hear the history of the house and be provided a tour of the building. Parking is in the former hospital lot next to the building to the right of the entrance and as usual refreshments will be provided. If you plan to attend please call Linda McDonald by 2/11 at 607-368-2244

The CIRG Programs are open to all Corning Incorporated retirees and their families- if school in the Corning Painted Post School district is cancelled or on a 2 hour delay, this meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled.

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