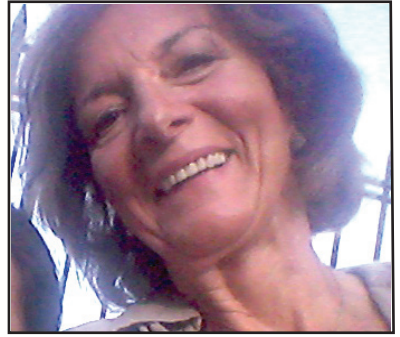


From the Publisher's Desk

Don't Just Sit There

BY ANGELA MELLEDDY
PUBLISHER



What was originally scheduled to appear in this space was an informative column by United Spinal's Jim Weisman about how repealing the Affordable Care Act would hurt millions of people in our country especially those with disabilities.

Because *Able* is a monthly newspaper, deadlines dictate that we prepare the paper in advance of the publication date. Once in a while however, a story or editorial piece is rendered unnecessary by an event such as the cancellation of the vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act/Obamacare (ACA) recently in the House of Representatives.

So, we got a reprieve from the fallout of the repeal, but we can't just sit back when most of us realize that the ACA needs work. Washington needs to calm down and the left and the right need to work together to make it a better law.

The ACA is working for some yet not working for others. As Weisman said in the column you don't get to read, "States with Republican governors that expanded Medicaid pursuant to the ACA do not want to retreat and deprive millions of healthcare."

At the same time, many in the middle class are facing high deductibles and co-pays that force them to pay for much of the care they need out of pocket.

All parties need to stop using the word "win." This is not a sporting event. When people on either side of the aisle use that terminology, it leads one to suspect that they are in it for themselves - their careers - or even their egos and do not consider the people who they "work" for.

Letting the ACA explode, as the President suggests, so both parties can then come together, is irresponsible and could be devastating to many. People will die if that happens. Both sides need to put the bravado aside and act in the best interest of the people. We need to catch up with the rest of the world and take care of the health of our citizens.

And, maybe they need to explore other options, such as single-payer insurance – as we are in New York state and they are in California – taking the profit out of healthcare. (See page 3 of this edition, "Single-Payer Proponents Hope Third Time is Charm")

Protect yourself and your coverage. Watch the movie "Fix It – Healthcare at The Tipping Point" at <http://fixithehealthcare.com/watch-the-movie/>. Produced by a businessman whose company was being overwhelmed by insurance costs, it explains how single-payer works.

Contact your representatives, both Republicans and Democrats, and tell them what you want them to do. They work for you, so call them everyday on every issue until they hear you.

This is how democracy works.

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