

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All have role to play in preventing drug use

To the editor: Our mission at ProHealth Care includes continuously improving the health of the community. That is why we are proud to partner with the Waukesha County Drug Free Communities Coalition to prevent alcohol and drug use among area youth. This week our organizations are encouraging recognition of Prevention Week, an annual health observance dedicated to increase public awareness of, and action against, substance abuse.

The abuse of prescription medications is on the rise among our youth, and we all play a major role in the solution. Through the Drug Free Communities prescription drug collection program, we and dozens of community organizations have helped remove and properly dispose of nearly 24,000 pounds of medication from Waukesha County households over the past five years. Removing these drugs prevents abuse and accidental poisonings, which are real dangers to the health of our young people.

The drug collection program is one example of how, by working together, we can have a positive impact on our community. We encourage the entire Waukesha County community to recognize Prevention Week by taking action in your homes and businesses to prevent substance abuse. Our young people have an important role in the future of our vibrant and healthy community.

Susan Edwards

ProHealth Care CEO Waukesha

Walker, Legislature have state moving forward

To the editor: I am writing in support of Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget and urge lawmakers to pass the governor's budget. In 2010, Wisconsin was at a crossroads and our economic future was uncertain. Under Governor Walker's leadership, the turnaround has been nothing short of remarkable! Now, with a Republican-led Legislature, jobs are returning to the state and the debate is over how many more taxes and regulations can be eliminated.

Recent projections show the state will take in over \$500 million more than expected over the next two years. Governor Walker's response was not to go on a spending spree of taxpayer dollars. The governor's immediate response for the surplus and increased revenue projections was to invest in aid for our schools, lower income taxes for middle-class families, hold the line on property taxes and build our rainy day fund. The governor's proposed budget will help Wisconsin families and small businesses by cutting income taxes by \$343 million, the first income tax cut in over a decade and his budget proposes his second property tax freeze. Anyone who pays income taxes in the state will see relief. Middle-income families will have more money in their wallet to continue to build a bright future for their children. And remember, this tax relief comes after years of Democrat- controlled power in Madison continually taking from the taxpayer to fund unnecessary and bloated bureaucracies.

The governor knows helping job creators create more jobs is really about helping workers provide better lives for their families. In a survey of "2013 Best & Worst States for Business," Wisconsin's ranking improved for the third consecutive year and, according to the governor's office, we "recently saw the largest gain of any state in the history of the survey," now ranking 17th place from 41st place in 2010. We cannot afford to go back to the days of double-digit tax increases and record job loss. Under Governor Walker and the Republican-led Legislature, Wisconsin is moving forward!

Ginny Marschman

Waukesha

Buckle up to save lives

To the editor: If you think that you don't need to buckle your safety belt because you're a good driver, remember that you're likely sharing the road with bad drivers, who cause crashes when you least expect it. Once a crash occurs, it's too late to buckle up.

Fastening your safety belt every time you drive or ride in a vehicle provides proven protection against serious and fatal injuries. Buckling up also is quick and easy, so it's hard to understand why approximately one out of five Wisconsin motorists does not wear a safety belt.

To increase safety belt use, law enforcement officers throughout Wisconsin will be patrolling city streets, rural roads, and major highways during the Click It or Ticket mobilization from May 20 to June 2. The Click It or Ticket message is clear – whenever officers see an unbelted driver or passenger, they will stop the vehicle and issue tickets.

The ultimate goal of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and our traffic safety partners is to reduce the number of preventable traffic deaths to “Zero in Wisconsin.” To achieve this life-saving goal, all of us – no matter how good a driver we think we are – need to buckle up every trip, every time.

Mark Gottlieb

Secretary Wisconsin Department of Transportation Madison

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