

In This Issue:

Celebrating MLK.....1, 6	Capitol Steps.....11
March for Women.....1-4	Democracy in Action ..11-12
Dems are Talking!.....1, 7-8	A Personal Perspective12
Congress Watch.....5	We The People.....13-15
Weinstein Gets to Work8	Price of Healthcare16-17
Schneider and the ACA.....9	

For information or to volunteer:
 Email us at newsletter@tenthdems.org
 Or visit our website at www.tenthdems.org
 Or call us at 847.266.VOTE (8683)
 Or write us at: Tenth Dems, P.O. Box 523,
 Deerfield, IL 60015

Editor: Barbara Altman

Editorial Staff: Catherine Caporusso, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Eric Herman, Adrienne Kirshbaum, Ron Schwartz, Allan Sperling

Contributors: Jeanine Chyna, Mark DeBofsky, Bill Fritz, Steven Gan, Elliott Hartstein, Karen May, Rachael Josephsen, Sheila Neilsen, Kim Parson, Mark Rosenberg, M.D., Laurence D. Schiller, Ron Schwartz, Ilyse Steiner

Design: John Burger

Distribution: Roger Baron, Ron Schwartz

The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems

Tenth Dems Celebrates King Day in Waukegan; Lauren Beth Gash Honored

By Ron Schwartz

Waukegan Township's 15th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dreamers' Breakfast was a marathon affair—and thoroughly enjoyable. On Monday, January 16, elected officials, judges, and hundreds of community members from throughout Lake County gathered for this special occasion. Tenth Dems members filled several tables.

This year's MLK Dreamers' Breakfast was particularly notable for Tenth Dems, in that Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash received a Drum Major Award for Outstanding Community Involvement.

Continued on p. 6



www.tenthdems.org

Tenth News

February 2017 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 14, Edition 2



Tenth Dems Joined Women's Marches in Chicago, D.C., and Across the U.S.

Chicago Women's March: Just the Beginning

By Bill Fritz

The mild weather had been predicted for nearly two weeks. What hadn't been predicted was the extent of the sunny blue skies or the warmth of that sun. Waking up early Saturday morning, we were all greeted to spring weather in January--truly an auspicious start to the day.

Continued on p. 2



DC Women's March: A Journey for Democracy

By Kim Parson

Late on the night of Friday, January 20th, along with 45 other brave and dedicated activists, I boarded the Deerfield, Illinois, Tenth Dems charter bus for Washington, D.C., for the Women's March on Washington. It was a long and foggy night but we eventually arrived at the March the next morning.

Continued on p. 5



Tenth Dems activists turned out in force across the country. Right, John Schaye in Sarasota, FL; in Chicago: above right, Deb Smith; middle right, Jeanine Chyna, Mariel Boden, Anne Grujanac; above far right, Nancy Krent (left); far right, Joe Adler in DC.



Democrats are Talking!

COME JOIN US AT TDU's LET'S TALK POLITICS! Let's Talk Politics is an ongoing series of moderated discussions that allows Democrats and progressives in and around the 10th District the opportunity to discuss important issues of the day and may include guests such as elected officials, candidates, political analysts, and authors.

Continued on p. 7

See p. 10-11 for photos from the Illinois Electoral College meeting on December 9.

Tenth Dems Joined Women's Marches in Chicago, D.C., and Across the U.S.

Chicago Women's March: Just the Beginning

Continued from p. 1

It was as if a power beyond us was weighing in and supporting our need to march to celebrate all that is good in our country and all that could be undermined by the new regime if we are complacent.



The excitement started to build as we were waiting at the Glencoe Metra train station to take us to our meeting place. We heard word that the Libertyville Station was jammed with marchers all carrying the diverse signs we have seen in so many pictures. Glencoe's station was quickly filling up as well. Word hit that the crowds were expected to exceed the 50,000 the organizers had hoped for.



Then we heard 65,000. One optimistic marcher was overheard saying maybe up to 85,000 could show up. This was getting interesting. The train was filled to capacity even by Evanston--and so we all became a close-knit family, tightly crammed into the train cars. No one could get in to take our tickets--an extra bonus. Thank you, Metra for the free ride.

We walked up Jackson. Small clusters of marchers merged into larger clusters until we formed a brisk parade up the sidewalks under the cloudless skies. High fives, chants, hugs, and smiles--always uplifting smiles--made this a celebration almost more than a march. The weight of the past few months was shed. If only for a magical day, we felt less alone, stronger in our faith that together we can make our voices heard.



We are more than half the population--and made stronger by our diversity and faith in hope and love.

Continued on next page



Tenth Dems Joined Women’s Marches in Chicago, D.C., and Across the U.S.

DC Women’s March: A Journey for Democracy

Continued from p. 1

What an amazing experience we had.

We joined hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters chanting, “This is what democracy looks like!”, “Black Lives Matter!”, “My body my choice; your body your choice!”, and many other spontaneous and motivating statements about our values. We were surrounded by people of all classes, ages, races, genders, and religions--unified by our demand to be seen and heard. We were all there to send an undeniable message to the federal government, including all its branches—the new administration, the Republican

After the March, we all convened back at the bus Saturday evening to exchange our stories of the day. The energy, hope, and motivation we gained from participating had everyone buzzing. We talked about our experiences and all the sister marches around the country and world.

We read the news coverage of the event and shared our photos. We were comforted by the fact that we are not alone.

Again, we

drove through the night—now weary but inspired.



Tenth Dems marchers in front of the bus they rode to D.C. on January 20-21.



Congress, and yes, the Supreme Court—that we will not go backwards on women’s rights, equality for people of color, access to healthcare, LGBTQ+ rights, freedom from religious persecution, our right to vote, freedom of speech, protection of our environment, freedom of the press, and so many other fundamental principles that our country was founded on.



On Monday, we returned to our daily lives intent on defending our democracy, speaking out against injustice, and staying involved in our local, state, and national political process. Our experience has convinced us that, while our country continues to experience so much divisive and hateful rhetoric, love always wins and will prevail.

Click [here](#) for an extensive album of photos taken by Tenth Dems activists at Women’s Marches across the U.S.

CONGRESS WATCH: Glancing Back and Looking Ahead; A Call to Action



By Laurence D. Schiller

The 114th Congress will go down as the most obstructive and do-nothing Congress since 1860. Republicans continued to block significant legislation favored by President Obama. In the case of gun violence prevention, they refused even to allow a floor vote on proposed legislation. And the GOP-controlled Congress refused to confirm dozens of well-qualified judges President Obama named to the federal courts, denying even a hearing to President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, to fill the Supreme Court vacancy left by the sudden death of Antonin Scalia in February of last year.

Sadly, the Republican-controlled 115th Congress may be even worse for Americans. On the very first day of its session, the House Republicans tried to gut the House Ethics Committee. Presumably, you don't try to weaken a watchdog committee whose only charge is to make sure Congressmen operate ethically under the law unless you've got something to hide. Fortunately, public outrage led Republicans to abandon this particular effort.

But this is just the beginning. The incoming GOP Congress is one of the most dangerous in terms of its potential to dismantle civil rights, voting rights, *Roe v. Wade*, social insurance programs, and access to healthcare. House Speaker Paul Ryan and the Trump Cabinet designees have clearly stated their intention to cut back or repeal government programs that assist the poor and middle class while easing taxes and regulations to the benefit of the one percent. For example, *Politico* estimates that the Trump tax plan would save his own family four billion dollars.

We will continue to report legislative developments—including the occasional positive news like the recent passage of bipartisan legislation originally introduced by Rep. Brad Schneider to help startup companies grow and create jobs by accessing the capital they need from angel investors. (See Sidebar) But there is much to watch out for, and we will try to keep our readers apprised of what's coming up next.

In the meantime, we Democrats must not lose the momentum created by the January 21 Women's Marches. We must diligently track legislative developments and make our voices heard whenever a Republican proposal threatens our values. And we should take to the streets again whenever necessary.

Remember always that we have to answer the question, "Is this who we are?" I don't believe it is. And so, we must organize and resist.

"Now is a time when none of us can afford to remain seated or silent. We must all stand up to be counted. History will demand to know which side were you on."

--Dan Rather

House Passes Bipartisan Legislation Originally Introduced by Brad Schneider

On January 10, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed, by a vote of 344-73, bipartisan legislation originally introduced by Rep. Brad Schneider to help startup companies grow and create jobs by accessing the capital they need from angel investors. Schneider spoke on the House floor in favor of the legislation.

"Startups are a tremendous source of dynamic growth and new jobs for our economy, but certain regulations have had the unintended effect of limiting their access to critical capital by placing burdensome restrictions on events where entrepreneurs can introduce their business ideas to potential investors," said Schneider. "The HALOS Act helps remove this roadblock, ensuring entrepreneurs and investors can connect more easily, while still maintaining important investor protections."

Rep. Schneider introduced the HALOS or Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act with Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) during the 113th Congress. In the intervening Congress, the bill was re-introduced by a bipartisan group of members including Reps. Chabot and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ). Schneider is a co-sponsor of the current legislation. "I was proud to introduce this bipartisan, commonsense bill during my first-term in Congress, and appreciate the work of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who continued to advocate for its passage," said Schneider.



Brad Schneider takes the oath of office as his wife, Julie, holds the Bible.

Tenth Dems Celebrates King Day in Waukegan; Lauren Beth Gash Honored

Continued from p.1



Left to right: Hon. Vance Wyatt, David Bonner, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash, Congressman Brad Schneider, Congressman Bobby Rush.

The three-hour program included our own Democratic Congressman Brad Schneider, who thanked all present for the opportunity to serve them again in Congress. The keynote speaker, Democratic Congressman Bobby Rush (1st Dist.), talked about the current political situation. Congressman Rush observed that African Americans had survived Jim Crow and opined that they would also survive Donald Trump.



Tenth Dems leaders Hon. Ron Schwartz, Bonnie Berger-Neel, and John Shepherd checking in.



Congressman Brad Schneider with Waukegan Township Supervisor Patricia Jones



Congressman Brad Schneider speaks to gathering.



Tenth Dems leaders Joe Adler and Ellie Sylvan.

Tenth Dems Leaders Join North Shore Baptist Ministers' Alliance to Honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



North Shore Baptist Ministers' Alliance celebrates King legacy at First Corinthian Baptist Church in North Chicago.



Left to right, Mayor Nancy Rodkin Rotering of Highland Park, Rev. Percy L. Johnson, Hon. Lauren Beth Gash.

Democrats are Talking!

Continued from p. 1

We were in Libertyville on January 18th, in Zion on January 24th, in Mt. Prospect on January 30th, and in Glencoe on February 2nd. We will be in Grayslake on February 9th, Fox Lake on February 15th, and in Waukegan on February 16th. Future LTP events are planned for other 10th District communities, so watch your email. Visit <https://tenthdems.org/events/> for details. RSVP at events@tenthdems.org, or call (847) 266-VOTE (8683).

Democrats Talk Politics in Libertyville

By Ilyse Steiner



Tenth Dems first *Let's Talk Politics* of the new year was held at Cook Memorial Library in Libertyville on January 12. More than 50 people engaged in a robust conversation on a variety of current issues. Some of the topics included sharing social media sources, the January 21 Women's March, healthcare and job concerns, and a lively dialogue among participants led by Founding Chair Lauren Beth Gash and Joyce Herres, a leader of the Libertyville Area Democrats.



Much of the discussion was devoted to dissecting the Democrats' loss in the presidential election as well as reaching out to potential volunteers new to Tenth Dems. People were passionate and articulate as they explained their concerns and fears about the incoming Trump administration. At the forefront was Republicans' promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act. This issue was of particular concern to several millennials in attendance who are working jobs with low hourly wages and no employer-provided healthcare insurance.

Democrats Talk Politics in Zion

On January 24th, Democrats got together at the Zion-Benton Public Library for another edition of Tenth Dems University's series, *Let's Talk Politics*. The two dozen or so participants engaged in a lively exchange about issues of importance to Democrats, independents, and progressives. The Trump presidency was a major source of consternation and concern. Looking locally, those present were encouraged that grassroots action led to the closure of a Dairy Queen franchise after the manager openly discriminated against African-American patrons on the basis of race.



Dems Talk Politics in Mt. Prospect

On January 30, in Mt. Prospect, Tenth Dems hosted another packed house for an engaging political discussion in its ongoing *Let's Talk Politics* series. Nearly 80 people came out to the Marvin S. Weiss Community Center in the southwest corner of the 10th Congressional District.



Continued on next page

Democrats are Talking!

Continued from previous page

One participant noted that our 45th president seems to have inadvertently become a great recruiter for Democratic and progressive groups. All remarked on the widespread and growing desire to become active. The discussion focused on ways to get involved, as well as key issues of concern and how to get the support of elected officials. Helping campaigns in upcoming elections and volunteering to work precincts or blocks, as well as coming out to upcoming Let's Talk Politics and other events, are among the ways to get involved and start to make a difference.



Erin Cartwright Weinstein, Democrat: The Newly Elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Lake County Gets to Work

By Mark DeBofsky

Erin Cartwright Weinstein, the recently-elected Clerk of the Lake County Circuit Court, is settling into her new job. Weinstein was urged to run for office by her family and by State Senator Terry Link. After studying the position and deciding there was a need she could fulfill, Weinstein took the plunge and ran a successful county-wide campaign on her first try for public office.

Since she started on the job, Weinstein has most enjoyed working with the other employees in the office and the judiciary to make the Clerk's office run more smoothly. She appreciates the hard-working staff and how diligently they work to make the operations of the Clerk's office more efficient.

Weinstein faces a huge challenge, though. The Illinois Supreme Court has mandated electronic filing of all court documents by January 1, 2018; and the Clerk's office has a tough job ahead of it to meet that challenge. The Clerk's office also needs to replace an antiquated case management system that still operates on a DOS-based platform and is inefficient in tracking court fees. To compound the problem, when Weinstein came into office, she found the funding for these projects was insufficient. And adding to the financial woes, fees generated by the Clerk's office from filings related to traffic offenses have declined, as have filing fees from the diminishing number of foreclosures. However, Weinstein is working with the County Board to find the necessary funding.



Despite those challenges, Weinstein loves her job and brings tremendous enthusiasm not only to her position but also to other civic activities such as working with local police departments and the Lake County State's Attorney's office on addressing the opioid epidemic and other problems such as underage drinking. Promoting diversity is another of Weinstein's priorities.

Weinstein is thrilled to serve as the Circuit Court Clerk, working for the people of Lake County.

Brad Schneider Begins a Series of Tours Throughout the District to Assess the Impact of ACA Repeal

On January 19, 10th District Congressman Brad Schneider completed his first tour of healthcare providers, hospitals, advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders throughout the 10th District to hear concerns over the Republican plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

“I was pleased to spend my first week home since taking office focused on the vital issue of quality, affordable health care and meeting with the professionals and volunteers working on the front lines of our nation’s medical system,” said Schneider. “Many shared deep concerns with the current effort underway in Washington to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which would cause premiums to rise across the board, take away insurance from those depending on the law, and unleash disruptive uncertainty in the healthcare and insurance industries. I’m ready and willing to work with anyone serious about broadening coverage and lowering the cost of our health care system, but we will not make progress through the irresponsible wholesale repeal of the ACA.”



Brad tours Highland Park Hospital

Two days before this tour, on January 17, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released a report showing the Republican repeal plan will severely raise premiums and increase the number of uninsured. According to CBO estimates, in the first year after repeal, premiums would increase by an additional 20-25 percent and 18 million could lose their insurance. In the decade following repeal, premiums would more than double over current estimates and 32 million would lose their insurance.



Brad meets with Lake County’s Navigators to discuss their work helping people enroll through the Affordable Care Act and concerns about the impact of repeal

Schneider toured Erie Family Health Center in Waukegan and Highland Park Hospital, visited with Navigators who help Lake County residents enroll in the Affordable Care Act, and attended a panel discussion hosted by Live4Lali on substance abuse issues. He also met with local advocates from the Alzheimer’s Association, healthcare executives from the Healthcare Leadership Council, and conducted a town hall meeting with employees of Marathon Pharmaceuticals.



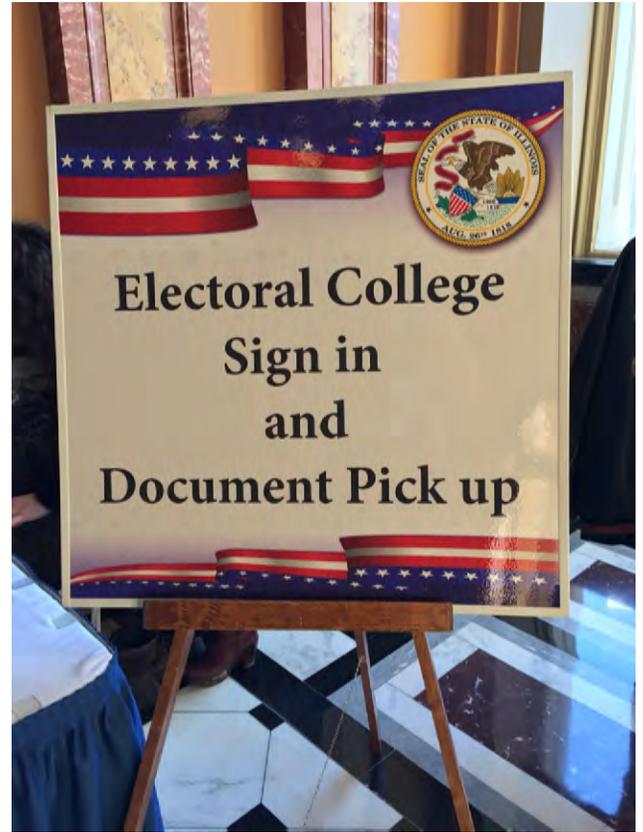
Brad meets with representatives of the Alzheimer’s Association.

Witnessing Democracy in Action

By Jeanine Chyna



We were then escorted to a small hearing room where I took a seat in the viewing gallery next to Congressman Danny Davis and listened as Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle took role call.



On December 19, I had the best front row seat in the state. It was better than sitting on the 50-yard line for a Bears game or sitting courtside at any Bulls game. I was a guest of Lauren Beth Gash as she cast her Electoral College vote in the Illinois State Capitol building.

It was a day filled with the sadness of what could have been as we all wished for a different outcome, but it was a historic day nonetheless.

The morning began by breezing through Security and past the rotunda where people protesting against Trump had gathered to be heard and to thank the Electors for their vote. Next, we were invited to a breakfast reception in Secretary of State Jesse White's office accompanied by a private tour of his suite.



It had been announced the night before that each of Illinois' 20 Electors had 90 seconds to give a speech before casting their vote. With a camera broadcasting live to CNN, a few

Electors said just a sentence about what the vote meant to them personally. However, Lauren used her allotted time on the floor to voice what was on everyone's mind. She called for a full investigation into the foreign influence of the campaign in order to protect the integrity of our democratic process.

After the votes were announced, the Electors gathered on the grand staircase for a photo and Lauren was approached by reporters.

Continued on next page

Witnessing Democracy in Action

Continued from previous page



Capitol Steps: Great Diversion on Inauguration Evening

By Rachael Josephsen

Her speech on the hearing room floor received a lot of attention and was mentioned over 100 times in the national media.

Although the Presidential election didn't go our way, we're ready to get back to work in the 10th Congressional District to ensure a different outcome the next time the Electoral College meets in 2020.



On Inauguration day, the Tenth Dems wiped our tears, lifted our chins, and settled in to distract ourselves with a fun evening out on the town. We started with a group dinner at Jameson's Charhouse in Skokie where we enjoyed yummy food and great conversations before heading over to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts to see the incomparable Capitol Steps perform. The Capitol Steps are a political satire troupe that send up recent political events through song and dance. The Tenth Dems occupied a large block of more than 50 seats.

It was a night of great friends, and great laughs to distract us. The evening was a pleasant and necessary diversion from the sad spectacle of the day's Inaugural activities.



Legitimate or Not, It's Hard for Me to Call Trump My President

A Personal Perspective

By Steven Gan

From the time of the writing of this article until the time it's being published, two weeks will have elapsed and there will be two givens:

The first is that Trump will be sworn in as our President and, like it or not, he will officially hold the highest office in the land and one of the most important in the world. He will be able to sleep in the Lincoln bedroom, fly on Air Force One, preside over majorities in the House and Senate, have his meals brought to him, and regale in the pomp and circumstance of being the President of the United States.



The second is that Trump will continue to send a barrage of tweets that will insult our sensibilities. No matter how much we hope that Trump might finally act a little bit presidential, his addiction to responding below the belt via Twitter means that he will keep the media and the public cringing every time he needs to combat any criticism towards him personally or any dissent from his views.

Over the past several weeks, we've heard a great deal from our intelligence agencies about how Russian cyber spies, under the tacit or direct approval of Vladimir Putin, were responsible for hacks on the Democratic National Committee servers. As the investigation continues, the professionals at our intelligence agencies will ultimately let us know if and to what extent these servers were compromised and the information stolen. Even if it's determined that these cyber attacks did not impact the outcome of the election, from a moral perspective, I cannot and will not accept Donald Trump as my president. Here are the top four reasons (among dozens) as to why.

Over the past several weeks, we've heard a great deal from our intelligence agencies about how Russian cyber spies, under the tacit or direct approval of Vladimir Putin, were responsible for hacks on the Democratic National Committee servers. As the investigation continues, the professionals at our intelligence agencies will ultimately let us know if and to what extent these servers were compromised and the information stolen. Even if it's determined that these cyber attacks did not impact the

outcome of the election, from a moral perspective, I cannot and will not accept Donald Trump as my president.

Here are the top four reasons (among dozens) as to why.

- Any person who mocks a disabled individual demonstrates an incomprehensible callousness towards that individual's challenges in life. Having a disabled relative myself, Trump's mockery and denial of such behavior was too grotesque and painful for me to swallow.



- Any person who degrades women, excuses it under the guise of "locker-room talk," and has taken sexual advantage of so many women exposes himself as a deeply disturbed sexual predator who has no place in a civilized society. In other words, we normally lock people up for this criminal behavior, not elect them president!

- Any person who feigns not knowing who David Duke, the Grand Cyclops of the White Knights of the KKK, is and hesitates to disavow this hate group, is unqualified to serve as president. The KKK meeting in Washington, D.C., last December at which Trump followers yelled "Heil Trump" was a direct result of his attacks on immigrants and foreigners, fanning the flames of and normalizing bigotry and racism in this country.

- And finally, any person who feebly attempts to dismiss the civil rights icon, John Lewis, an outstanding human being who suffered terribly to help bring about civil rights for millions of African Americans in this country, lacks the moral fiber required of our president. Trump's attack on Congressman Lewis exposed how insecure, and shallow he is and how he feels about himself and his own doubts about his having been "legitimately" elected president.

And so, for these reasons, regardless of how legitimately Trump may have won the majority of electoral votes, in my book he will always be a shameful and humiliating illegitimate president.

What Can “We the People” Do in the Aftermath of Trump’s Election?

By Sheila Nielsen

This presidential election left many shocked, upset, and worried. Psychiatrists and psychologists saw an upsurge in depression. Part of the shock was because polls were so wrong that in the span of a few hours as the returns came in, the Trump effect melted away Clinton’s hopes and the hopes of most Democrats for the further development of a progressive agenda in our country.



In my office building, riding on the elevator, there have been a number of occasions where someone was in the elevator with me and, seeing the Hillary Clinton pin on my coat, started a conversation about how upset they are and how they cannot sleep at night and are fearful of what is going to happen in this country.

Tammy Duckworth, our newly elected junior Senator from Illinois, reported that the day after the election she was out in the city of Chicago to thank her voters and many of them came up to her crying and asking her for reassurance and a hug.

They expressed their fear to her about what Donald Trump would do as president.

This is not a normal response to an election. If any other Republican had won, people would not be this fearful and disturbed.

Trump has used extremely divisive and harsh rhetoric that has ignited the alt-right and KKK.

His picks for cabinet posts show that he has made a deal with right-wing Republicans to enact their agenda despite his populist rhetoric on the campaign trail. For their end of the deal, the Republican establishment ignores Trump’s ethics violations and even, perhaps, his collusion with Russia to win the election by hacking the Democrats and disseminating fake news.

Trump’s win has shaken our values and beliefs to the core. His actions and words go against so much of what we teach our children about how to behave: we tell our children not to insult others, not to cheat, not to lie, and to follow the rules and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Trump does not follow the rules. He insults people and groups, he cheats, he lies, he refuses to release his taxes, and he is unwilling to divest himself of his business interests while serving as President of the United States.

The refusal to divest seems to be a clear violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution, which forbids the acceptance of gifts to a president from a foreign government. Some prominent legal scholars have filed a lawsuit alleging just that. The simpler remedy is impeachment, but Trump needn’t worry about that. As long as the Republicans in Congress are getting what they want from Trump’s presidency, they will ensure that Trump will not face any consequences from his conflicts of interest and ethics violations.



Trump admires Putin and other dictators and demagogues. There are serious questions and concerns about how much the Trump campaign may have colluded with the Russians, a foreign government hostile to the United States, to win this election.

Continued on next page

What Can “We the People” Do in the Aftermath of Trump’s Election?

Continued from previous page

What was Trump appointee General Michael Flynn doing on the phone talking with operatives in Moscow the day before Obama sanctioned the Russians for cyber crimes? What are Trump’s financial ties or debts to Russian oligarchs? Trump refuses to share his tax returns with the American people. What is he hiding?



Maryland Congressman and civil rights icon John Lewis did not go to the inauguration and has said he does not believe that Trump’s election is legitimate. President Obama has urged us to take the long view. He says that we should give Trump a chance because if he succeeds then we all succeed. While it is good to be open-minded, we should not be naïve. Trump is poised to become the first leader of our country who could radically alter our government by changing it into an “illiberal democracy.” Democracy relies on cultural norms of compromise and civility. Many of these norms already have been weakened by some congressional Republicans’ refusal to play by the rules these past eight years. Most notably, Republicans broke with tradition and norms by refusing to give Obama’s eminently qualified Supreme Court pick, Merrick Garland, so much as a hearing. This was part of a cynical plan that key Republicans agreed to immediately after Obama’s election—do everything possible to undermine the Obama presidency. Republicans became the party of “NO,” even shutting down government if they did not get their way. Compromise became a dirty word.

In an illiberal democracy, the supposedly popular vote to elect the leader is a sham because it is accompanied by the loss of freedoms and rights that are the hallmarks of a true democracy. The free press is usually the first casualty. News becomes mere propaganda rather than accurate and informative.

That could happen here because Trump constantly excoriates the press and uses Twitter to avoid exposing himself to the press and their penetrating and uncomfortable questions. He tells his followers not to believe the mainstream media and demands that everyone accept his version of reality. He has chosen to instill Steve Bannon in the White House, a notorious purveyor of slanted news and misinformation who recently called the press the real “opposition party” to the Trump administration. Trump surrounds himself with surrogates who apologize for his every move even if his action or statement is patently ill-advised. Remember when White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer insisted in a press briefing that Trump’s Inaugural crowds were larger than Barack Obama’s in 2008— notwithstanding irrefutable photographic evidence that the Obama Inauguration crowd far exceeded Trump’s?

In a true democracy, the President is always criticized. It is a First Amendment right that our press should exercise. But Trump is very thin-skinned, and he retaliates against people who say negative things about him. We will need to support journalists and newspapers that are reliable sources of information so that they are not compromised or shut down.

And there is more we can do.



One of the best ways to deal with worry or concern is to get active and “become the change we need.” On January 21, I participated in the Women’s March in Chicago.

Continued on next page

What Can “We the People” Do in the Aftermath of Trump’s Election?

Continued from previous page

The crowd was expected to be 60,000 but is now estimated to have been over 250,000. There were over 600 marches across the country in every state and around the world on every continent—even Antarctica. Many of these gatherings had unexpectedly and remarkably large turnouts. Although the feeling of the crowd was positive and cheerful, this extraordinary reaction to Trump and the Republicans is evidence of widespread pushback against the ideas, plans and values of this new administration. It is important that those who feel strongly about preserving our democracy stay active. Write letters and make calls to Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to insist on decency and fairness and initiatives that help all Americans. A public outcry can make a difference.



This election has been a wake-up call. For some of us it feels more like we woke up in the middle of a nightmare and can't get back to reality. We can see that cherished institutions and beliefs, including civility and honesty, ethics, fair treatment, and truthfulness that are the hallmark and bedrock of our democracy and our workplaces, will be tested by this incoming administration.

Those of us in the cities also need to reach out across our divided country to listen and care about other Americans in red states and blues states no matter who they voted for.



Those folks who think Trump will bring back their jobs in coal country and the rust belt are in for a big disappointment. It looks like they, along with millions of other Americans, could also lose their health insurance as Republicans rush to dismantle the Affordable Care Act without a viable replacement. People who voted for Trump thinking he was their populist hero are going to have a very tough time once Trump and the Republicans implement an agenda that rewards the one percent and removes supports and the way forward for everyone else. We are all going to have a difficult time of it if Trump's many cabinet picks deconstruct the departments they are supposed to oversee, but they seem to be hand-picked to do just that.

In *Hamilton*, the musical, there is a line that is relevant for this moment in history: “Oceans rise. Empires fall.” Change is happening in our country.

We really might fall. Those of us who want diversity, fairness and a progressive agenda stand to lose a lot with the Trump administration. “We the people” must do what has to be done in a vital, thriving democracy, namely participate and get engaged to preserve and protect the values and norms that have made our wonderfully diverse and open-minded country the envy of every other nation on earth.

The Price of Healthcare

By Mark Rosenberg, M.D.

“It was once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.”

--Hubert H. Humphrey

President Trump has nominated Tom Price to be Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and implement the yet-to-be-revealed Republican plans for healthcare. Price is a Congressman from Georgia and an orthopedic surgeon who has opposed Obamacare as well as any government-sponsored healthcare throughout Trump's career. His nominee for director of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the agency within HHS that administers Obam-



President Trump and the Republican leadership in Congress have vowed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. (Obamacare) Indeed, the Republican-led House passed the repeal over 50 times in the past few years, and now they no longer have to contend with a president who will veto the legislation. Even before President Trump took the oath of office, the Republican Congress inserted repeal of certain Affordable Care Act funding measures into a budget reconciliation act—legislation that is not subject to filibuster.

With over 20 million Americans receiving health insurance either through the Obamacare Marketplace or its expansion of Medicaid eligibility, repeal would have a harmful impact for sure.

The Republican Congress plans “repeal and replace.” The question is, replace with what?

acare (as well as Medicaid and Medicare) is Seema Verma of Indiana who, under Governor (and now Vice President) Mike Pence, implemented Medicaid reforms that placed limitations and fiscal sharing for Medicaid recipients, most of whom are children and whose families earn under the federal poverty level of \$16,000 for a family of two persons.

One part of Obamacare that Price and Verma would have authority over is the branch of CMS designed to test and implement changes in the actual delivery of and payment for healthcare in the country. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) was established in the Affordable Care Act, and has been authorized to act as a grantor and innovation lab for different state plans to address some of the largest cost drivers in health, seniors with chronic illness who are responsible for a high percentage of medical costs.

Continued on next page

The Price of Healthcare

Continued from previous page

Price has been an outspoken critic of the innovation center, especially as it has experimented with shifting Medicare payments from fee-for-service to a value-based model that would not pay physicians on traditional volume criteria, but on a set of metrics emphasizing quality and efficiency. Price has expressed concern that these changes limit the discretion of physicians and intrude into the doctor-patient relationship. One of the main populations of patients affected by these CMMI demonstration grants are so-called “dual-eligibles,” or those eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare—generally those at the intersection of old age, low incomes, and, often, disabilities. The new HHS and CMS under Trump, Price, and Verma could roll back any potential patient gains or data gleaned from these projects. Above all, Price is known for his opposition to quality measures that most healthcare policy experts have supported, evaluating the effectiveness of medical interventions.

“Instead of having a secretary for the people, you have a secretary for the medical profession,” said Max Mehlman, a law professor at Case Western University, who specializes in medical malpractice and who reviewed Price’s proposal. Within days of his nomination, more than 5,000 individual physicians signed a letter opposing him. Of course, one of his strong supporters is the American Medical Association.

Price also supports the Republican proposal to replace Medicare as we know it with basically a premium subsidy designed to enable Medicare beneficiaries to select their own private health insurance. Such a scheme likely would cost individual beneficiaries far more than is the case with Medicare as it is currently structured.

And the longstanding Republican plan for Medicaid would eliminate most federal oversight by giving block grants to states to design their own Medicaid program.

The rest of us who do not receive employer-based insurance would receive either tax credits or health savings accounts or a combination of the two, neither of which would be likely to support insurance premiums of as much as \$12,000 annually. How they would address issues of preexisting conditions and drug prices is unknown.

What Price will we the people pay if Trump’s nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services is confirmed?

1. Without access to affordable insurance, it is likely that many individuals will skip seeking preventive care, which is now free of charge to consumers with insurance under Obamacare. Others will forego doctor visits and ignore symptoms lest they rack up medical bills they can’t afford to pay.
2. Women, in particular, are likely to be at risk, given the opposition of both Pence and Price to support for women’s healthcare as well as the likelihood of a Supreme Court nominee opposed to abortion. It is also likely that Planned Parenthood will be defunded.
3. Transgender individuals will likely also be at risk as the new administration weakens protection for LGBT people.
4. Hospitals will likely lose revenue as an increased number of uninsured individuals showing up for emergency treatment will be unable to pay for that care.

