

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

Big Insurance and PBMs are letting Iowa pharmacies collapse – Senate File 383 Can Save Them

(SBA) - The clock is ticking for Iowa’s pharmacies. Last year, 31 closed their doors, falling victim to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) who prioritize profits over patients. Big Insurance and PBMs don’t care if Iowans have to drive hours for their medications—they’d rather your pharmacy close than lose their grip on your prescriptions and the profits they make when we dispense them. Senate File 383 offers a chance to fight back. Iowa lawmakers must not fall for the fear mongering of big insurance and PBMs.

Conservative states like Arkansas, West Virginia, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee have already passed bold PBM reforms, ensuring their citizens can access their medications. West Virginia, for example, has reported major reductions in premium increases thanks to these reforms, proving that reining in PBMs saves money for consumers and employers alike.

PBMs are the culprits behind soaring drug costs. They inflate prices for employers and consumers, then underpay pharmacies, forcing closures. Their scare tactics about Senate File 383 are a desperate attempt to distract from their profiteering. This isn’t about pharmacies asking for handouts—it’s about stopping Big Insurance and PBMs from bleeding Iowa dry. Without reform, more com-

See LETTER TO EDITOR P.7



Rep. Randy Feenstra  
(R), Iowa’s 4th Congressional District

Finding a permanent, loving home for every child

Rep. Randy Feenstra, (R), Iowa’s 4th Congressional District

(SBA) - In the United States, there are approximately 370,000 children in the foster care system with about 117,000 waiting to be adopted.

While the number of kids in foster care has fortunately declined over the decades, there is still more work to be done to ensure that every child can find a permanent, loving home as quickly and safely as possible. As a father of four, I know that children are one of life’s greatest blessings, and it’s why, throughout my time in Congress, I have introduced legislation to help connect our nation’s most vulnerable children – those in the foster care system – with a caring family and loving home to call their own.

In January of this year, legislation that I authored was included in a larger child welfare package, the Supporting America’s Children and Families Act, and signed into law. My bill – the Strengthening Evidence-Based Prevention Services Act – addresses a little-known obstacle negatively impacting organizations that work diligently to keep vulnerable children out of foster care. These groups offer what are referred to as “prevention services,” which include initiatives like substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and parental coaching.

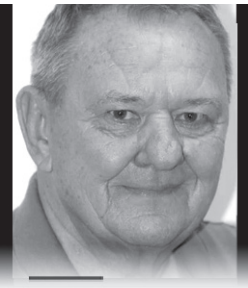
However, the programs supported by these organizations must be rigorously evaluated for efficacy, with those certified as effective being eligible to receive federal funding. Without this funding, these organizations would struggle to fulfill their missions and consequently be forced to cut their services or shut down entirely. To prevent this from happening, this legislation, which is now law, authorizes a grant

program through the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to fund evaluations of prevention services, enabling them to have the supporting evidence that they need to receive federal funding, and in turn, keep families and children together.

In early March, another bill that I introduced to improve outcomes in our foster care system also passed the U.S. House of Representatives with unanimous support. This legislation would help states uphold and strengthen their diligent recruitment plans by improving their processes – with concrete facts and information – for identifying, recruiting, and retaining qualified foster homes. Diligent recruitment plans are strategic frameworks that use data and other relevant statistics to recruit and retain families willing to foster and adopt. This is a particularly important initiative as our nation faces a shortage of foster families and, according to the data, those families who do open their homes do not foster for long. That’s why this legislation would also establish family advisory boards to share best practices, highlight financial obstacles facing foster families, and keep foster families at the center of systematic changes and improvements.

To ensure that more children are paired with stable families, we need to implement policies that identify potential foster families, connect children with those families, and reverse the alarming trend of foster home closures and declining foster retention rates. Fortunately, by passing this bill and getting it signed into law as soon as possible, I am confident that we can connect more foster children with loving families and make a lasting and positive impact on our country.

See FEENSTRA P.6



Wayne Dominowski  
Guest Commentary,  
Sergeant Bluff ADVOCATE

Dems: Resurrecting the Sturmabteilung

By Wayne Dominowski,  
SBA Contributing Editor

(SB) – Hooray! The Dems/lib/leftists have found a cause in which to return to the control they held during the Obama and Biden years! They chose as their party banner Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the illegal alien from El Salvador.

He was arrested by ICE and deported to his home country El Salvador.

The NY Post reported that “the alleged MS-13 gang member who was wrongly deported to El Salvador’s notorious mega-prison last month, held the rank “Chequeo” and the street name “Chele” within the vicious criminal organization, newly released documents revealed.”

His rap sheet reads like a passenger manifest for a major cruise line, only it’s not a joy ride. It’s a listing of one crime piled atop another. (Look it up Google: Kilmar Garcia.)

Like George Floyd before him, the Dems/Libs/Leftists seek to make the wife-beater their poster boy. They’re doing it in person and through their left-wing legacy media, TV interviews, paid for protests, lawyers in need of a quick buck, and even a U.S. Senator and four U.S. House members flying to El Salvador in a quest to have the Salvadoran President free the criminal so he can come back to the U.S. and be given his third due process that will ultimately and unequivocally ship him back to prison where he belongs.

The real scoundrels in this pervasive act are a Democrat senator and representatives. I’m not going to name them because that’s what they are looking for: publicity and notoriety.

The Dems/lib/leftists were and are a mess. They buried us in a debt covered up by lies when Obama ran the country for 8 years,

See DOMINOWSKI P.11

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