



## Dirty Dozen: 12 Senate Republicans Who Voted to Silence Ted Cruz

By Dean Garrison, February 13, 2014, dccllothesline.com

Everyone knew that the debt-ceiling deal would pass through the Senate on Wednesday. Even Ted Cruz had to know it. As soon as the House passed the deal on Tuesday, the writing was on the wall.



Sen. Ted Cruz (R) of Texas arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, as senators go to the chamber for a vote to extend the Treasury's borrowing authority. J. Scott Applewhite/AP

Even so, Ted Cruz promised to fight for America once again and filibuster the legislation. Would that have changed things? More than likely it would not have changed the vote. But Ted Cruz is the voice of a lot of Americans who are fed up with the Washington D.C. "business as usual" crowd. Evidently tee times and the beltway bar scene are more important than listening to the voice of an elected representative, because 12 republicans turned on Ted Cruz Wednesday, including his own Texas sidekick, John Cornyn.

This morning I feel like my own tongue was cut out, because there are few in the Senate who speak for me, and Ted Cruz is one of them.

The Senate vote for cloture passed 67-31 and could not have passed without republican votes. 60 votes were needed. These are the 12 who voted to silence Ted Cruz as reported by The Hill:

*The Republicans who voted in favor of ending debate were McConnell, Cornyn, Hatch, McCain, Corker and Sens. Susan Collins (Maine), Jeff Flake (Ariz.), Mike Johanns (Neb.), Mark Kirk (Ill.), John Barasso (Wyo.), Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) and John Thune (S.D.). Thune and Barasso are also members of leadership.*

Lindsey Graham did not vote for cloture but chose to shoot his mouth off anyway. In defense of McConnell, Graham was quoted as saying, "I think people understood that he is not for raising the debt ceiling without something attached. Obviously, that was impossible after the House voted for a clean increase. Hopefully the other people voting with him helps, and hopefully people see it as an act of pragmatic leadership."

More "blame game" politics. Despicable.

I don't argue that it is partially true, but there is plenty of blame to go around in both chambers.

I for one just want to see my elected servants do what is right by their constituents. If that means that Ted Cruz beats his head against a brick wall and talks for another 22 hours, then that is fine with me. Why? Because he speaks for me. He speaks for America. He speaks for fiscal responsibility.

Most patriotic Americans understand that the deck is stacked now. But that doesn't mean that we don't want to see our representatives fight for what is right.

This is a big deal. We are giving our government an open checkbook and guaranteeing ourselves even faster rising debt.

How many more band-aids are we going to put on before we admit that the system is broken and needs a complete overhaul?

Does something need to be done? Yes.

But our legislators are acting like they don't have time to be bothered with a discussion of real ideas. Many republicans are bowing to the rule of the other party now. Voting for cloture is a funny thing because it gives a lot of republicans a perceived "out," but Americans are not stupid.

Twelve republicans and 55 others (2 independents and 53 democrats) voted to "hurry up and rush the vote" by a margin of 67-31.

Then the republicans sought to redeem themselves when the actual budget ceiling deal passed by a margin of 55-43. Every republican voted NO.

What does that tell you?

It tells me that there is a defeatist attitude that needs to be purged from the republican party. *Let's hurry up and vote and by no means discuss this. We can vote "no" later and that covers us.* Is that the responsible way to act? You throw in the towel but make sure you are on record as a dissenting opinion?

Again, not all Americans are that stupid.

## 5 Devastating Obamacare Facts From CBO's Latest Economic Report

By Sean Davis, February 4, 2014, thefederalist.com

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) just released its latest analysis of the country's economic and budget outlook, and it's a doozy. If you're a Denver Broncos fan who watched in horror as your team disintegrated during the Super Bowl on Sunday, then you'll have some idea of how Obamacare's proponents will feel as they read this report.

Yes, it's that bad.

It's so bad that there's even a report section entitled, "How Much Will the ACA Reduce Employment in the Longer Term?" (Spoiler alert: a lot). As predicted by its conservative opponents, Obamacare has indeed destroyed jobs, increased spending, and made health care less accessible.

Here are 5 facts from CBO's report that illustrate how the law's effects bear no resemblance whatsoever to its namesake's promises.

### 1) Obamacare Will Destroy 2.5 Million Jobs By 2024

**From the report:**

*The reduction in CBO's projections of hours worked represents a decline in the number of full-time-equivalent workers of about 2.0 million in 2017, rising to about 2.5 million in 2024. Although CBO projects that total employment (and compensation) will increase over the coming decade, that increase will be smaller than it would have been in the absence of the ACA.*

Back in 2011, CBO guessed the law would only kill 800,000 jobs. Oops! But what's a couple million jobs between friends, right?

### 2) In 2024, There Will Still Be 31 Million People In The U.S. Without Health Insurance

Before the Affordable Care Act was passed, its top proponents – including the president himself — made a big deal about how the law would solve the problem of the uninsured. And during a September 2009 speech on the topic before a joint session of Congress, President Obama lamented that "there are now more than 30 million American citizens who cannot get coverage."

Surely that number will be lower more than a decade after the law's passage right?

*Still, according to estimates by CBO and JCT, about 31 million nonelderly residents of the United States are likely to be without health insurance in 2024, roughly one out of every nine such residents.*

Oops again.

### 3) Surprise! Millions Of People Who Liked Their Health Plan Will Lose Their Health Plan

There's a reason even PolitiFact was forced to acknowledge that the president's "if you like your health care plan" promise was a total lie. From the CBO report:

*CBO and JCT project that, as a result of the ACA, between 6 million and 7 million fewer people will have employment-based insurance coverage each year from 2016 through 2024 than would be the case in the absence of the ACA.*

So many oopses.

### 4) Obamacare Reduces The Incentive To Find And Keep A Job

Yes, Virginia, incentives matter:

*Reduced incentives to work attributable to the Affordable Care Act (ACA)—with most of the impact arising from new subsidies for health insurance purchased through exchanges—will have a larger negative effect on participation toward the end of that period. [...]*

*By providing subsidies that decline with rising income (and increase with falling income) and by making some people financially better off, the ACA will create an incentive for some people to work less. [...]*

*More than 2.5 million people are likely to reduce the amount of labor they choose to supply to some degree because of the ACA, even though many of them will not leave the labor force entirely.*

### 4) 5) Your Paycheck Will Be Smaller Thanks To Obamacare

If it walks like a tax increase, and talks like a tax increase, it's probably a tax increase, even if the people who voted for the tax increase promised it wasn't a tax increase:

*In addition, beginning in 2018, the ACA imposes an excise tax on certain high-cost health insurance plans. CBO expects that the burden of that tax will, over time, be borne primarily by workers in the form of smaller after-tax compensation. Some firms may seek to avoid or limit the amount of the excise tax they pay by switching to less expensive health plans, and in that case workers' wages should rise by a corresponding amount. Those wages will be subject to income and payroll taxes, however, so total tax payments by those workers will be higher than they would have been in the absence of the ACA. After-tax compensation will thus fall whether firms pay the excise tax or take steps to avoid it, and the resulting increases in average and marginal tax rates will cause a slight decline in the supply of labor, CBO estimates.*

But other than that (and the doc shock, and the premium shock, and the broken website), the law is doing totally awesome, you guys.

## Connecticut Gun Owners Haven't Complied With 'Assault Weapons' Registration



Rally for gun rights at the Connecticut state capitol, Jan 2013. (NBC)

By theoptimisticconservative, February 14, 2014

In late December 2013, residents of the Constitution State were lining up in the cold to register so-called "assault rifles" and high-capacity magazines (magazines that hold more than 10 rounds), to comply with a new state law that went into effect on 1 January.

State officials had expected the flood of last-minute registrations. What they didn't expect was that so few "assault weapon" owners would comply with the law. By mid-January, there were only some 50,000-odd registrations in state authorities' hands.

The state was expecting a *whole* lot more:

At roughly 50,000 applications, officials estimate that as little as 15 percent of the covered semi-automatic rifles have actually been registered with the state. "No one has anything close to definitive figures, but the most conservative estimates place the number of unregistered assault weapons well above 50,000, and perhaps as high as 350,000," the report states.

In late January, a gun-rights blogger for Examiner.com reported that only some 38,000 of the high-capacity magazines had been registered in Connecticut.

-----Continued on Page 2-----

-----Continued From Page 1-----

As Charles Cooke notes at *The Corner*: even if you cut the state officials' high estimate of existing "assault weapons" in Connecticut in half, that still leaves more than two thirds of them unregistered.

Connecticut's leaders are scrambling to account for the discrepancy – although some have heard from constituents that they are, in fact, engaged in civil disobedience:

Republican state Sen. Tony Guglielmo told *The Courant* he recently spoke to a constituent at a meeting in Ashford, who informed him that some of his friends with semi-automatic rifles are intentionally taking a stand.

"He made the analogy to prohibition," the lawmaker recalled. "I said, 'You're talking about civil disobedience, and he said 'Yes.'"

Guglielmo said he really thought the "vast majority would register."

Other officials think the low registration numbers are due to ignorance on behalf of gun owners who aren't aware of the new law. It's impossible to know the main reason why gun owners aren't showing up to register their guns without hearing from them directly, although Guglielmo's constituent indicates at least some are practicing "civil disobedience."

It seems very doubtful to me that gun owners are unaware of the new registration law (which was passed after the Newtown shooting in December 2012). Gun owners – especially those who own the weapons referred to by legislators as "assault rifles" – tend to be much more aware of gun laws than other people.

Gun owners are also unusually likely to know about the abuses that crop up with "database policing." California has implemented such policing with its new gun laws, and although in theory the California approach will not deny their gun rights to competent, law-abiding people, the experience of this Bakersfield man makes it clear that the citizen's rights are assumed away as the going-in proposition, rather than vice versa.

The results of database policing in California are raids without warrants, and a confiscate-first, ask-questions-later approach. In New York, database policing may have taken a more sinister – unlawful – turn in 2013, when two residents of Erie County were ordered to surrender their guns under the provisions of the SAFE Act. Neither man had a criminal record, but according to the attorney hired by one, his client was apparently flagged by the New York State Police because he had been on anti-anxiety medication for a brief period in the past. The client's doctor had never reported him as a potential danger. But the police were able – improperly – to access the record of his prescription for a medication. Someone had decided to order him to turn his gun in.

There's not much we can do these days about our prescriptions being in a database somewhere, or government authorities having access to those records. For a growing number of veterans, there is little they can do about the Veterans Administration entering their names in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, flagged as ineligible to buy or possess firearms (see last link). The VA has reportedly been doing this based on assessments of veterans' supposed "incompetence" to manage their own affairs. But the extraordinary number of veterans who have been flagged in this way incited skepticism from Oklahoma Senator Tom Coburn, who has been trying to get language into a defense authorization bill that would shut down this VA practice. As he and others point out, no one's Second Amendment rights should be denied to him without a constitutional process in court.

The gun owners of Connecticut may well be exercising the discretion they *do* have, however: to not enter their firearms in a database, and let the state figure out what to do about that.

As Charles Cooke says, at NRO, it's a stupid law.

But it's more than stupid. It posits a relationship of the state to men that America was founded to prohibit, and that millions of Americans strenuously oppose. Gun registration does, in fact, lead to gun confiscation. The reasons for confiscation may sound reasonable today, but there's no magic wand that prevents the state from *changing* its reasons for confiscating guns, once the guns are registered.

Just a couple of weeks ago, [Richard Fernandez](#) noted an article by Tennessee professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds, in which Reynolds celebrated how "[Irish democracy](#)" – the people simply ignoring the laws – was confounding things like Obamacare, and legal prohibitions on marijuana. (I don't know if Reynolds would be enthusiastic about Irish democracy confounding gun-registration laws in the states.)

But many gun owners would invoke a different icon of our varied Western heritage – a much older one. They would suggest that their fellow citizens in Connecticut are not so

much "voting" with their inactivity, as standing at the pass at Thermopylae, quietly saying: [μολὼν λαβέ](#).

## It's Happening Now: Famine is Coming to a City Near You



By Lizzie, February 14, 2014, [undergroundmedic.com](#)

We watch the famines that roll by in foreign nations and most of us have a mixture of feelings. Sympathy at the suffering, anger at those nations' rulers for not doing more...there's a gamut of emotions particularly for the children who are powerless to do anything about it. What rarely crosses our minds though is 'how would I cope?'. The reason this doesn't enter our heads is that we live in lands of plenty, where food has always been available, and always will be...or will it?

Famine has many causes. War and civil strife, with populations always on the move is a major contributor in countries like Sudan. Itinerent populations don't plant crops. There's little point when you are constantly upping stakes and fleeing either from your own government or from one of the numerous militia groups that roam the country side.

Syria, a country wracked by civil war is another example of conflict leading to food shortages, and history is littered with other examples where the cause and the outcome are the same.

There are also numerous examples of famines caused not by war and conflict, but by heat and cold, by drought and flood, and there is no reason at all that a weather related famine could not happen in the first world.

The weather is changing around the globe, not as a result of global warming, but just as part of a cycle the Earth goes through.

On a personal level I believe the planet is actually cooling, because more and more scientists are changing their minds about global warming, quite simply because the planet isn't warming anymore.

A cooling planet will present problems we haven't had to deal with before. Growing zones will change, and with it the foods that we eat. More and more weather related incidents will prevent haulage of moving foods from the warehouses to the stores. The unprepared will be hungry, even if it is just for a few days until the latest storm passes.

What though, if it doesn't pass in a few days?

Here in the UK we have been warned that such is the level of groundwater, that we will in parts, be flooded for months, and that's if there's no more rain.

Arable land lies under feet of water, tainted with salt from sea flooding in many places. Like the United States the UK works on a just in time delivery network, a network that isn't working too well at the moment due to power cuts that prevents the computer systems from listing what needs to go where. Even if it worked, so many towns are cut off that the trucks delivering the food can't get through.

Now for a small country like the UK, this is not insurmountable since boats float on water, and nowhere is more than a hundred miles away from somewhere that still has power. More often than not it's much less than that, so stuff can still be moved to where it's needed. If however, this was a truly national crisis, for example the whole country had no power, we are talking a different thing altogether. It would be chaos.

Now scale this up to a country the size of the United States. A country much, much bigger than the UK. The United States has an area of 3,790,000 square miles against 94,600 square miles for the UK.

To put it another way, your country is just under 41 times bigger than my country. Try to imagine the logistics of keeping the whole country fed if a portion of it is in famine conditions. If it was the west of the US that was experiencing shortages due to drought, as California

currently is, then the food supply for the whole country is reduced. What they do produce will most likely stay in the state to feed the people of California. Think of it like this, you wouldn't grow a garden full of veggies then give them all away without saving enough for yourself first would you? This will leave the US in a really odd situation where the parts of the country **WITHOUT** the weather issues end up being the parts of the country with reduced food on the shelves.

As we have seen with recent storms, food goes very fast when people perceive there is a problem coming, and there is a problem coming, and it won't be too long before it gets here.

The dictionary definition of the word famine is:

fam·ine (fām'īn)

noun

1. A drastic, wide-reaching food shortage.
2. A drastic shortage; a dearth.
3. Severe hunger; starvation.

So simply not being able to afford the food that is available would put people into a state of famine. As I said in 'It Has Begun...', we are already on the road to food shortages and price hikes, we are already on the road to famine.

The most important thing you can do right now is plant food. Gardening as a hobby is rapidly going to become a thing of the past, gardening for survival is going to take it's place. Don't wait. Now's the time. Plan, plant and survive because there's a very good chance that famine is coming to a city near you.

## Breaking: Rand Paul to Sue Obama Administration

By Jim Hoft, February 11, 2014, [thegatewaypundit.com](#)



Senator Rand Paul's political action committee just announced he is suing the Obama administration. Paul will file his lawsuit on Wednesday morning at the U.S. District Court in D.C..

**PJ Media** reported:

*Rand Paul's political action committee just announced that the Kentucky senator is suing President Obama.*

*Paul will file his lawsuit on Wednesday morning at the U.S. District Court in D.C., joined by former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and FreedomWorks president Matt Kibbe.*

*The class-action lawsuit will be filed against Obama, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, Director of the National Security Agency Keith Alexander and FBI Director James Comey.*

*The complaint? "I am filing a lawsuit against President Barack Obama because he has publicly refused to stop a clear and continuing violation of the 4th Amendment," Paul said in a statement. "The Bill of Rights protects all citizens from general warrants. I expect this case to go all the way to the Supreme Court and I predict the American people will win."*

*Cuccinelli, acting as lead counsel, said he's "excited" about the opportunity "to get the courts to affirm the rights protected by the 4th Amendment to the Constitution."*

*"We have assembled a legal team and we expect to be opposed by the vast resources of the federal government, yet I am optimistic that we will prevail, because we are seeking to protect a cornerstone of the Constitution," added Cuccinelli, who was defeated in the Virginia governor's race last fall by Terry McAuliffe.*

American Patriot News is published every second week in 23 Florida Counties and 7 states on Monday, by OPR (Operation Paul Revere) Assoc., Inc., P.O. Box 681, Shady Grove, Florida 32357, 850-672-4221  
Subscription Rate: \$18/6 mo or \$36/year (1<sup>st</sup> class mail).  
Make check payable to OPR Associates, Inc.  
[www.americanpatriotnews.us](http://www.americanpatriotnews.us)  
Email: [americanpatriotnews@yahoo.com](mailto:americanpatriotnews@yahoo.com)



## Who Scared the FL Senate? 2nd Amendment Bill Needs Sponsor



February 13, 2014, fltac.org

**Two weeks ago, the NRA issued this statement:** "HB-733 is NOT an NRA bill and, at this time, we have taken no position on the bill. We have grave concerns about the effect of the bill — whether the consequences are intended or unintended. Of primary concern is the effect the bill would have on positive pro-gun legislation that NRA has worked hard to pass in the past and hopes to pass in the future. The bill does not differentiate between positive pro-gun legislation and restrictive gun control laws that negatively affect Second Amendment rights"

**While outwardly saying they took no position, the NRA in Florida was busy behind the scenes sabotaging HB733,** first interfering with the House bill while still in the drafting process. Rep. Dane Eagle stood his ground and rejected their demands for wording changes. In less than a week after sponsoring the bill, ten House co sponsors joined him.

This past week the FL NRA interfered again. This time in the senate. The FL NRA was more successful there. HB733's language makes all federal firearms regulations "past, present and future" barred from enforcement by state agents. The NRA pulled rank on potential senate sponsors: they could file this bill if the federal regulations impacted were going forward only— or "from the effective date of the passage of this bill." This Florida NRA preferred language would grandfather in all federal Second Amendment violations since the first National Firearms Act was passed in 1934. **If you missed that, read it again. The FL NRA supports grandfathering in all federal violations of the Second Amendment going back to the first National Firearms Act of 1934. Does the Florida senate also support these violations?**

Florida statute 790.33 reads in part: **"the Legislature hereby declares that it is occupying the whole field of regulation of firearms and ammunition."** Notice that after the word Legislature there is no language that indicates the FL NRA shares in this legislative monopoly. The Florida senate is in fact sharing this monopoly with the FL NRA. In doing so it is ill advisedly denying gun owners a voice in the legislative advocacy process. Moreover, they have foolishly allowed the FL NRA to determine the limits of firearms freedom. Limits which are not reflective of the framers or founders definition of "shall not infringe."

**We strongly suggest the senate abandon this terrible decision.**

The FL NRA has positioned itself as "the Second Amendment authority." The Florida senate has grown accustomed to doing what they are told by the FL NRA as it relates to firearms legislation.

**True right to keep and bear arms liberty as intended by the framers requires this to change.** The FL NRA has no more authority, moral or academic, to determine acceptable federal infringements on the right to keep and bear arms than does the federal government. The term "positive gun legislation" would be as foreign to the founders and framers as the term "Obamacare." Such federal action would be repugnant to them. **Florida legislators must absolutely cease from making the first question regarding any firearms legislation "What does the FL NRA think about this?"**

The time has come for the FL NRA to stop hiding behind a "no position" fallacy using the veiled negativity of "whether the consequences are intended or unintended" to mislead people about HB733.

The Second Amendment Preservation Act prohibits the state from helping the federal government violate the Second Amendment. The FL NRA can continue to not support this bill or enter into a dialogue with us in an

honest and productive manner. In either case, the great FL NRA wizard should come out from behind the curtain. Florida isn't Oz. Freedom loving firearms owners in Florida do not require the FL NRA to supply them with courage, a heart or a brain.

**Neither should the Florida senate.**

There are fifteen days left for senators who say they support the Second Amendment to sponsor the senate draft of HB733 as originally submitted. Firearms freedom activists and their votes are watching closely.

**We need your help! Take action below using a special campaign to your Florida Senator to file and sponsor the companion bill for HB 733 – The Florida Second Amendment Preservation Act.**

**APN Editor's Comments:**

*Senator Alan Hayes spoke with our editorial staff on February 14, 2014. Senator Hayes said that he originally put the bill in drafting as he committed. He reports that he has several problems with the bill and language as follows:*

1. *He has concerns about the language that would prohibit FDLE from joint operations with the FBI. According to Hayes this is a long standing relationship.*
2. *Marion Hammer (NRA-ILA) did not influence his decision not to support the bill in its current form.*
3. *He also stated concerns with the bill language being retroactive.*
4. *When questioned about the apparent success in 10 other states he stated that "He was only concerned about Florida."*
5. *Hayes also stated he would reassign the bill to any Senator willing to submit it before the deadline.*

## Florida Citizens Alliance Questions the NRA



Press Release, Florida Citizens Alliance, February 13, 2014

Why is the NRA in Florida undermining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Preservation in Florida? Ten States have passed State Sovereignty bills in the last four years.

In the **NRA-ILA GRASSROOTS ALERT: Vol. 21, No. 5** 01/31/2014, the headline was **"President to Press his Anti-Gun Agenda "With or Without Congress".**

The alert stated that " the President reiterated his support for increased background checks and bans on common semi-automatic firearms and their magazines." Apparently more unconstitutional Executive orders are on the way.

In light of this alert, the Florida Citizens Alliance does not understand why the local NRA-ILA affiliate, Marion Hammer, would not enthusiastically support the Florida Second Amendment Preservation Act HB 733, a bill that would strike a blow to this unconstitutional federal action. In 1998, the Mack/Printz v US Supreme Court Decision found that the federal government could not commandeer state resources to enforce federal mandates. This is exactly what the Florida bill seeks to do. Without help from the states, the feds would not be able to push these unconstitutional orders. As such the Florida Citizens Alliance finds Ms Hammers recent Alert paradoxical. Why would a gun rights advocate work against many of its own NRA members who support a bill that uses Supreme Court precedent?

Link to Florida HB 733 <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

Taylor County Commission Meeting  
February 18, 2014, Board Meeting, 5:30 PM  
February 25, 2014, Board Workshop, 5:30 PM  
March 3, 2014, Board Meeting, 5:30 PM  
Perry City Council Meeting  
February 25, 2014, 5:30 PM  
March 11, 2014, 5:30 PM  
Taylor County School Board  
February 18, 2014, Board Meeting, 6:00 PM  
March 4, 2014, Board Meeting, 6:00 PM  
Florida Legislative Session  
March 4th – May 2nd, 2014

## Florida Board of Education Meeting in Orlando!



FCEE members will be meeting in front of the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center 445 W. Amelia Street, Orlando at 8am this Tuesday the 18th.

**Look for our banner/signs with our logo.**  
*We will be announcing a special project!*

## EPA Bans Most Wood Burning Stoves In a Corrupt Scheme, Fireplaces Next



Photo courtesy of Majestic Fireplaces

By Sara Noble, February 5, 2014

As of January 3rd, the [EPA](#) banned about 80% of the wood-burning stoves and fireplace inserts in the United States. Stoves which are used to heat 12% of the homes in America and are especially needed in outlying rural areas. Fireplaces are also being considered.

The EPA is attempting to reduce particle pollution with new rules. Instead of limiting fine airborne particulate emissions to 15 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of air, the change will impose a maximum 12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  limit. That is equivalent to a person smoking 3 to 4 cigarettes in a small confined space.

The draconian EPA regulations will be spread out, one will take place in March and the next in five to eight years. Stoves currently in use will not be affected but obviously, getting them repaired will become more and more difficult.

They haven't yet gone after outdoor appliances or home heating appliances, but can they be far behind? Will people be able to heat their homes in a future controlled by extreme environmentalists?

Even fireplaces are being looked at, though not included yet. They are part of the future research.

Forced air furnaces will also face drastic cuts and are headed for extinction over the next five years unless they meet near-impossible limits to their emissions.

The ruling will "require efficiency and carbon monoxide testing and reporting, which will provide consumers additional information to help them select the best wood heater for their homes," which will cost sellers and home owners time and money as they face an unbending bureaucracy overseeing these simple devices.

Local governments in some states have gone further and banned stoves as fireplaces, placing fines on users. Montréal, Canada, has banned them altogether. It gets pretty cold there, but they don't care.

The Attorneys General in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont, strongholds for far-left Democrats, have filed suit against the EPA demanding wood-burning water heaters and outdoor wood boilers also be included. The extreme environmental group EarthJustice also filed suit.

Senators David Vitter (R-LA) and James Inhofe (R-Okla.), along with Rep. James Lankford (R-Okla.), Chairman of the House Oversight Subcommittee on Energy Policy,

-----Continued on Page 4-----

-----Continued From Page 3-----

Health Care, and Entitlements, et al, have been investigating and will continue to hold the administration accountable where possible.

Regulations like these are being forced through with “fake” lawsuits.

The **corrupt scheme** being used is known as “**sue and settle**”. It allows the EPA more freedom in advancing harsh regulations on the public. The scheme works like this according to Senator Vitter of Louisiana:

A far-left environmental group sues a federal department or agency, like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), claiming that the government is not satisfying its regulatory obligations. Then, after the group and the EPA plan and discuss the matter – without the involvement of any others, including affected business, landowners, and state and local governments – they draft a settlement agreement committing the agency to regulate a certain sector of the economy or type of private property. All that’s left is to get the presiding judge to bless their friendly agreement.

There’s even a bonus prize in this scheme. Because such a settlement is counted as a “win” for the environmental group plaintiff, that suing group is awarded all of its costs and attorney’s fees, creating a revolving fund for its continuing activity, courtesy of our wallets.



## Congressman Ted Yoho in Cross City

You are invited to attend a townhall meeting with Congressman Ted Yoho, Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Trail Riders Club, 294 NE 241st Street, Cross City. As he has done on numerous occasions, Congressman Yoho will address his recent votes on several key bills before the House, offer us a preview of important impending legislation and ask for our guidance. After his initial presentation, Congressman Yoho will open the floor to questions from the attendees.



## Turkeys in Florida Coming Home to Roost

By: Sherry Smart

Other states refer to “special funding” as earmarks or pork, but here in Florida that money is referred to as Turkeys. We have a lot of turkeys in Florida regardless of scope or topic. These special spending items have one thing in common: strong ties to top state lawmakers.



While the majority of people living in Florida are struggling with ever increasing costs, the average family has had to tighten their belts and cut back, while those special few in Tallahassee are still drunk with spending. When enough people in Florida get sick of the abuse of their tax dollars going to fund things that they themselves don’t believe in, then perhaps there will be a shift in government. It will not happen without YOU. Why is it that people always talk about government as if it is some “thing” out there... some gigantic thing that has total power and we just shrink and cower to the whims and fancies of cronyism.

The definition of Atrophy:

A wasting or decrease in size of a body organ, tissue, or part, owing to disease, injury, or lack of use: muscular atrophy of a person affected with paralysis.

n. A wasting away, deterioration, or diminution: intellectual atrophy.

v. To cause to wither or deteriorate; affect with atrophy.

The proliferation of foul spending and the increase in turkeys is directly related to “We The People”. The regular guy has lost control of his vocal cords by way of atrophy. All people who are not a part of government need to stand up and speak!!! Everyone needs to say NO to governmental spending. What if the cut back by the government affects you negatively? My answer - take the pain now; make a change for the future. Either way you are going to feel pain... I for one would rather be in control of the suffering that I go through instead of waiting for the government to inflict it upon me.

Turkey’s are appropriations to specific recipients or local government that bypass the established selection processes or competitive bidding. These projects are placed in the budget without the opportunity for public review or debate. This process circumvents the lawfully established procedures and provides funding to very limited special interests or a local area of the state... It’s all in who you know as to who benefits from the pecking order of a turkey.

The 2013 Report identified 107 member projects with these appropriations totaling \$106.8M this was a cut from the 2012 Report by 52 projects and less spending by \$74.2M. Hope you are feeling really good about the cut backs on spending your hard earned tax dollars on these turkeys!

## Photo: The Heartbreaking Face of Common Core



Photo credit: Kelly Anne Photography

By Michael Dorstewitz, February 14, 2014, bixpacereview.com

If you want to see the true face of Common Core, look no further than the children it’s being foisted upon. Then prepare to have your heart broken.

“I’m a photographer,” New York resident Kelly Poynter wrote on her business Facebook page. “This is my daughter...and this is the first photo of her that I have ever hated. #commoncore”

She posted the photo Wednesday, and as of Friday morning, it’s been shared almost 2,500 times.

Poynter later wrote in EAG News:

*This is my middle child in the photo ... she is 7 and is in 2nd grade. My kindergartner and my 4th grader were already finished with their homework and had left the table. I had brought my camera in to work on my white balance skills while shooting in low light as I had a session the next morning to prep for.*

*After checking her work, I had found 2 math problems were incorrect. I tried to help her understand where she went wrong through her process, but I don’t understand it myself and was not much help.*

*I told her to forget about it and we’d try again tomorrow, but she became very upset that she could not get the answer and kept trying and trying to fix it. She is hard on herself, as she very much wants to excel in school and not be pulled for extra help all of the time. I was talking to her and clicking my camera as I changed settings ... it’s something that is very common in our household ... and that is when I caught this image.*

Poynter said of her daughter in the EAG News piece:

*My daughter is incredibly strong. My daughter is a 4-year cancer survivor. She is a fighter with a resilient spirit. It crushes me to see her cry; to see her struggle. My daughter deserves a happy childhood.*

So how did it all turn out?

*Please know that 5 minutes later I had convinced her to leave the homework behind and go snuggle with her dad on the couch and watch some Olympics coverage. She is not neglected. She was not abused or left alone to cry. And this photo was not staged.*

Mathematics had been taught in much the same manner for hundreds of years. Some people loved it; others hated it. But everyone understood it on at least some basic level — enough to make change, prepare a household budget and confirm that your new car is really getting the mileage the dealer advertised.

Then Common Core came out with a better idea. But it’s turned out to be the Edsel of academia.

It’s time for educators to admit their mistake, go back to the tried and true and return a glow to this little girl’s face.

## “IMPEACH OBAMA” T-Shirts and Displaying American Flag Deemed Illegal by Town—TMLC Files Federal Lawsuit

February 3, 2014, thomasmore.org

The Thomas More Law Center (TMLC), a national public interest law firm based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, announced today that it has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Town of Campbell, Wisconsin, whose ordinance police are enforcing. This ordinance prohibits citizens from displaying the American Flag and wearing t-shirts which call for the impeachment of President Obama on the highway overpass managed by the town. Joining TMLC as local co-counsel is La Crosse, WI, lawyer Bernardo Cueto.



At issue is the enforcement of the Town of Campbell’s ordinance, 9.12, which prohibits the display of signs and flags on, or within

100 feet, of the only pedestrian overpass managed by the Town of Campbell. The Town enacted the ordinance on October 8, 2013 in response to some angry calls about the “Impeach Obama” expression on the t-shirts and the resulting media attention.

The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, on behalf of La Crosse residents Gregory Luce and Nicholas Newman, against the Town of Campbell, its police chief, and one of his officers. Luce and Newman were participating in a nationwide movement called “Overpasses for America.”

Erin Mersino, a TMLC attorney handling the case, said, “Viewpoint discrimination is one of the most harmful threats to our freedom of speech. The answer to contempt of a certain viewpoint is not to silence that viewpoint, but to invite more speech and create a discourse. That is one of the most fundamental tenets of our Republic. The ordinance at issue turns the public sidewalk on the overpass, which is otherwise open to the public, into a dead speech zone.”

The lawsuit claims that the Plaintiffs’ constitutional rights to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly have been violated and that the Ordinance is unconstitutional on its face and as applied by the police. Because the Plaintiffs wish to continue their constitutionally protected speech, they asked the Court to enter a Preliminary Injunction banning further enforcement of the ordinance during the pendency of the lawsuit.

Gregory Luce is a Catholic who is pro-life and opposes President Obama for many reasons including the President’s actions in support of abortion. On October 24, 2013, Luce along with a few of his supporters appeared on the pedestrian overpass wearing t-shirts that collectively spelled out “IMPEACH” on one side and “OBAMA” on the backside. A Town of Campbell police officer confronted Luce and his supporters and ordered them to leave or receive citations. Luce and his supporters left as ordered. This police action also thwarted a similarly planned demonstration by Luce on public land 100 feet from the overpass in question, which was also prohibited by the challenged ordinance.

Plaintiff Nicholas Newman is a patriotic American. On October 27, 2013, Newman appeared on the overpass in question carrying an American Flag to express his pride for his country and the ideals on which it was founded. Police issued Newman a citation for displaying the American Flag in violation of the ordinance, which carries a fine of \$139.00.

The pedestrian overpass consists of only a sidewalk with a fence on either side. Sidewalks are considered by the courts as traditional public forums.

Richard Thompson, President and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, commented, “The Supreme Court has repeatedly stated that a bedrock principle of the First Amendment is that government cannot ban the expression of ideas just because some find it offensive. In fact, the Supreme Court has allowed the burning of the American Flag on the grounds that it is matter of free expression. So I’m astonished that the Town of Campbell and the police department think it can ban a citizen from displaying the American Flag.”