

Missouri GOP tries to hide opposition to Rep. Wagner

Chuck Raasch's article has a fitting headline "Democrats target 3 House seats here" (May 7). Regrettably, the story is off focus in one aspect because a few facts have been omitted.

Raasch has allowed readers to assume that Rep. Ann Wagner is running unopposed in the August GOP primary. Last month, Noga Sachs filed to run against Rep. Wagner in the GOP primary. Sachs held her first town hall meeting April 25 in Ballwin. On the same day, Missouri GOP officials delivered a letter to demand she withdraw her name from the GOP primary ticket. Enclosed was a \$100 check to reimburse Sachs for her filing fee. Sachs refuses to withdraw and will not cash the check.

It seems that the Missouri GOP doesn't want anyone to oppose Wagner, even though the party considers her to be a sure win in November. I believe that the Missouri GOP officials' attempts to suppress Sachs' run are newsworthy. There are Republicans who disapprove of Rep. Wagner's total support of President Donald Trump's harmful antics.
Janet Cuenca • St. Louis County

Commentary points out systemic bias in justice system

Regarding the commentary "Missouri Senate should act now on probation flaws" (May 9):

Kudos to Komala Ramachandra for pointing out another systemic bias in our criminal justice system. As usual, the burden of it falls most heavily on the poor.

Many defendants simply cannot afford the costs imposed by private probation companies for misdemeanor or municipal probation. In addition to fines, court costs and possibly restitution, any number of additional fees may also apply, including supervision fees, random drug and/or alcohol testing fees, assessment fees, program fees and electronic monitoring fees.

The law sets limits on the maximum fine a court may impose for misdemeanor offenses. The Senate must extend this law to include maximum fees private probation companies may charge, or the oft-touted ideal of equal justice under law will continue to be just another pie-in-the-sky idea.

Lou Horwitz • St. Peters

in America. Our country desperately needs such a system to provide health care for everyone. We can learn about the pitfalls experienced by other countries who have these health care systems and improve on them to address an Alfie Evans situation, rather than summarily dismissing the concept altogether.

Mark Rackers • Brentwood

Senators should sign on to act that would help mothers

Mother's Day makes me reflect on why I became an activist for maternal/child health. When I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl 14 years ago, it opened my eyes to a new level of worry about her well-being. I found new levels of empathy for mothers around the world who all share a universal desire for our babies to live healthy lives of opportunity.

Every day, 800 moms die from pregnancy or birth-related causes. Plus, 16,000 moms every day experience the loss of a child under 5. We know how to prevent the vast majority of these deaths.

Currently in Congress, there is a bipartisan bill to help end these unnecessary deaths. The Reach Every Mother and Child Act is already co-sponsored by 146 House members, including Reps. Ann Wagner, William Lacy Clay and Blaine Luetkemeyer. In the Senate, there are 25 co-sponsors. Unfortunately, Sens. Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill have not signed.

After calling our own moms on Sunday, we can write our senators asking them to sign onto the Reach Act (S. 1730) and help make every day Mother's Day.
Cynthia Changyit Levin • Town and Country

A nationwide crisis with Alzheimer's, dementia

My heartfelt thanks to Lonni Schicker and Post-Dispatch reporter Michele Munz for the article "Stolen future: Seeking answers to memory loss" (May 6), which follows Schicker's journey with dementia. It hopefully brings into focus the nationwide crisis that Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia have already created. It is the most expensive disease in the country, costing almost \$260 billion a year, and yet it is the only disease of the top 10 killers that has no prevention, no treatment and no cure.

My best friend for over 30 years, Marie, was diagnosed in 2000 at age 56. As one of her caregivers along with her