



North Coast Physician



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*Please submit electronically
 prior to the 15th of
 the month preceding publication.
 hdncms@sbcglobal.net*

North Coast Physician is published monthly by the Humboldt-Del Norte County Medical Society, 3100 Edgewood Road, P.O. Box 6457, Eureka, CA 95502. Telephone: (707) 442-2367; FAX: (707) 442-8134; E-Mail: hdncms@sbcglobal.net Web page: www.hdncms.org

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APRIL FOOL'S REPORT

Lee Leer, M.D.



I was searching through some old things I'd written four years ago, and just re-discovered this. I had tried to make up some stuff about President Obama that no president, in his or her right mind, would ever say or do. So here, 4 years too late, is my April Fool's submission from 2012:

- o President Obama, lacking any evidence, accused his predecessor of wiretapping his phone. Thus becoming the first sitting president to accuse a prior president of committing a felony.

- o President Obama falsely claimed that there was widespread voter fraud, and that in fact he did not lose the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes.

- o President Obama has blocked the entry to the US of any Muslim from every Muslim-majority nation in which he does not already have investments.

- o China just granted President Obama trademark protection for 38 separate applications, including for massage parlors and escort services. This is the first time in US history that a sitting president has remained active in personal business dealings.

- o Along similar lines, a close advisor to President Obama publicly encouraged US citizens to purchase perfume marketed by one of President Obama's daughters.

- o For the first time in the modern political era, the President refused to release his tax returns (after chastising rivals for not doing so, and after promising to do so himself).

- o The US Secretary of Education has never worked in education, and is opposed

to public education.

- o The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development believes the Earth was created about 6000 years ago and that the Great Pyramids were grain silos.

- o The head of the EPA is on record as stating that he doubts that CO2 is really responsible for global warming, and that humans are not responsible for climate change.

- o The new Secretary of State, in his prior job as CEO of ExxonMobil, saw to the funding of climate change deniers, serving to directly prop up share prices of ExxonMobil. He and his prior corporation have since begun a smear campaign against the members of the Rockefeller Foundation who outed his practices. The Secretary said the following in 2013: "What good is it to save the planet if humanity suffers?"

- o President Obama promises to "bring back coal," and to back out of international climate negotiations.

- o The FDA is headed by a venture capitalist who is on record as stating that he doesn't believe that pharmaceutical companies should have to prove drugs work before bringing them to market.

- o President Obama's newly appointed Secretary of Health and Human Services, when he was in Congress, purchased stock in a medical device company days before introducing legislation to delay regulations that would potentially have slowed the company's growth. He is also morally opposed to universal health care as a fundamental human right.

- o President Obama's Attorney General

was denied a judicial appointment years ago because of his

very public racism. Recently too, he said

"good people don't smoke marijuana."

- o The Russian government took an active role in getting the current administration into office in Washington. This has been confirmed by top intelligence officials, and well covered by the mainstream media. The Democrats who control Congress, however, have totally given up the pretense of having any sort of moral compasses, and are working diligently to slow or totally derail any investigation.

- o Indeed, the Democratic Party as a whole has pretty much decided that the Russians are more or less on our side.

- o Since President Obama's election, refugees have been swarming across the border: from the US into Canada.

- o In spite of all the above, roughly 35% of the US population continues to support President Obama.

- o Yes, the above statements are all true, but, as we all well know, these are truths from 2016 and beyond, and are about the current wielders of power in Washington.

But what does this have to do with health, you may ask? Well, sort of everything, I'd reply. Over fierce opposition from the Republicans in Congress, the Democrats and President Obama – the real president Obama – cobbled together true healthcare reform. Since it was enacted, the opposition has voted over 60 times to repeal the ACA; however, until 1 week ago, they'd apparently not thought about what they might replace it with. In spite of the fact that the Affordable Care Act was never meant to

"APRIL", Continued on Pg 20

***SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND? WANT TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES?
PLEASE SEND THOSE THOUGHTS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NORTH COAST PHYSICIAN OR
IF YOU'RE INSECURE ABOUT YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE - LET US HELP YOU.***

“APRIL”, Continued From Pg. 4

make healthcare costs stop rising, it did in fact slow the rise. Still, just a few months ago one couldn't open a newspaper or go to the internet or listen to Fox News without hearing about how dramatically insurance premiums were going up this year. The reality that only 3% of Americans were actually faced with higher out of pocket premium payments was somehow lost on the reporters. The Congressional Budget Office just released its estimate that over 12 million Americans will lose their health insurance the first year after the repeal of the ACA. Of course, the people in power are very excited about the fact that average premiums are projected to decline in a few years under the Republican plan. Sadly, this is because insurance companies will once again be allowed to sell policies that cover essentially nothing. No prevention. No regular visits to primary care doctors. No prescriptions. Essentially nothing.

Finally, what should be most depressing and discouraging to the entire world, is the new regime's approach to climate change. I mean, as horrific as its policies are in essentially every other realm one could imagine, ultimately they can all be reversed, and over time corrected. But by we Americans choosing to put the current regime in power, we have chosen to ensure that the Earth's climate, and ecology, and biologic diversity, will never recover from our assault... at least not until centuries or millennia after the end of human hegemony over the Earth. To call this approaching cataclysm a public health crisis doesn't even begin to encompass its significance. HIV was a public health crisis. Zika was a public health crisis. Cholera was/is a public health crisis. The fact that our country is being run by an entire group of people who deny the scientific reality of climate change is truly equivalent to the Catholic Church, just a few centuries ago, refusing to accept

that the Universe did not revolve around the Earth. While that episode of pigheadedness cost a few people their lives, it never really imperiled the future of all humanity and the world as we know it. So I think it's fair to say that this chapter in American and world history will undoubtedly go down as one of the most catastrophic and ill begotten political turns ever taken. That is, if our future isn't too fraught for there to be historians writing history.

Happy April Fool's Day.

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**“ACA”, Continued From Pg. 5**

nians, yet many have no access to a doctor. CMA's goal is to increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates so that patients can find a doctor when they need one. CMA will also keep fighting to enforce more patient choice of physicians within health plan networks.

CMA supports stabilizing the individual market through increased access to reinsurance, which would spread the risk in the pool and make insurance more affordable. One of the reasons Covered California's average 4 percent premium increases jumped to 13 percent in 2017 was the loss of reinsurance funding, which was cut by Republicans but inadequately funded by the ACA.

Working with partners, CMA will continue to work with Congress and the Trump Administration to create a bipartisan environment to reform our health care system so that it works for physicians and patients (see attached infographic). And we will vigilantly protect those parts of our health care system that are working.

CMA's Core Principles for Health Care Reform:

1. Improve access to physicians.
2. Ensure Californians do not lose coverage.

3. Protect state and federal Medicaid funding.
4. Continue tax policies and subsidies that help low-moderate income patients afford coverage.
5. Advocate for broad patient choice of physicians, plans and coverage through Health Savings Accounts (HAS), private contracting, private insurers, and government programs.
6. Maintain the important insurance reforms that protect physicians and their patients, such as coverage for pre-existing conditions, no lifetime/annual limits on benefits, essential health benefits, and coverage for children up to age 26 on parent's policies.
7. Stabilize the individual insurance market by funding reinsurance for catastrophic cases and incenting the healthy to purchase coverage.
8. Provide access to affordable prescription drugs.
9. Eliminate regulatory burdens in the Medicaid and Medicare programs.
10. Medical liability reform that does not undermine California's MICRA law. §

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**STRENGTH IN NUMBERS**  
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**YOUR HELP IN RECRUITING YOUR COLLEAGUES AND STRENGTHENING THE “VOICE” OF YOUR PROFESSION AND YOUR PATIENTS IS IMPORTANT. YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP.**  
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*Comments or letters, which may be published in a future issue, should be sent to [hdncms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hdncms@sbcglobal.net)*

**North Coast Physician**

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

## PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

**Refer to Practice Opportunities on our website for a list of Practice Opportunities for Physicians. Separate listing for Advanced Practice Clinicians is also posted. Recruitment Brochure & Video; Links to Local Recreation; Links to Loan Repayment Programs; Norcal Medical Partners Facebook, and more....**  
**[www.hdncms.org](http://www.hdncms.org)**

## OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

**OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOR SALE.** Items include a refrigerator certified for vaccine storage and other equipment including exam tables, spirometry and breathalyzer. Please contact Kathy or Linda at 497-6342.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**MEDICAL STUDENT HOST HOUSING NEEDED.** Do you have an extra room? Empty nest? Want to play a part in mentoring and welcoming a medical student to our rural county? Please call Kate McCaffrey at (707) 599-7832. In some cases a housing stipend is available. Thank You!

**FIREWOOD for Sale.** Contact Lee: (707) 499-2805

## PROPERTY FOR SALE/ RENT/ LEASE

**OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE IN HENDERSON CENTER.** 3 exam rooms, 2 bathrooms. Can be a live-in office situation since zoned for residential and business. Contact Teresa Marshall, 442-6584 for more information.

**FOR SALE OR LEASE:** Medical Office building in McKinleyville which is approximately, 1500 sq. ft. It has three large exam rooms, two bathrooms, a generous waiting room, receptionist office, two additional offices, a lab room and a small additional work station. This includes all furniture, computer system hardware, EMR software, medical equipment and supplies. Currently the medical office is a well established primary care practice and it is offered as a "turn key" operation with the option of taking over the care of the currently established patients. If interested, please contact Bob at (707) 498-6688 or email: [drdramott@gmail.com](mailto:drdramott@gmail.com)

### **Did You Know....**

Members may run classified ads in *North Coast Physician* at no charge for the first six months for business-related ads and ½ price for personal ads (on space available basis).

## HAVE A MEDICAL STUDENT OR RESIDENT PHYSICIAN ROTATING WITH YOU?

**Have them contact the Medical Society so we can help introduce them to the Medical Community. They are welcome to attend local meetings and social events with you.**

## Display Advertising Rate Schedule

| <u>SIZE</u>            | <u>MONTHLY</u>  | <u>SIZE</u>          |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1/4 Page               | \$140.00        | 7.45" x 2.61"        |
| 1/2 Page               | \$160.00        | 7.45" x 5.23"        |
| 1/3 Page Vertical      | \$150.00        | 2.37" x 9.95"        |
| Full Page              | \$200.00        | 7.45" x 9.95"        |
| Inside Cover/Full Page | \$275.00        | 7.90" x 10.40"       |
| Business Card Ad       | \$65.00         | Copy Ready 2" x 3.5" |
| Classified Ads         | \$5.25 per line |                      |

*DEADLINE: 15th day of the preceding month to be published*