

## Other Viewpoints

### New Kansas laws add jobs for lawyers

When Gov. Sam Brownback said he intended to create jobs in Kansas, who knew he was talking about lawyers? Derek Schmidt, the Republican attorney general, has asked the Legislature to add \$1.2 million to his two-year budget to help defend bad laws that Brownback signed this session. Schmidt estimates the new gun nullification law, which U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has vowed to challenge, will cost \$225,000 in legal fees. He's figuring on needing \$500,000 to defend the big new anti-abortion law. That's on top of \$759,000 already spent to defend other abortion laws signed by Brownback. Schmidt is requesting \$250,000 in anticipation of a challenge to an anti-union law banning automatic paycheck deductions. He's also seeking a quarter of a million dollars to defend a new law requiring drug tests for some Kansans who receive welfare and unemployment compensation. It's worth noting that the Legislature didn't pass these expensive laws in response to a groundswell from constituents. The drug-testing bill was pushed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, which works on behalf of corporations, including drug companies. The paycheck deduction bill was supported by the anti-union Kansas Chamber of Commerce. Those groups certainly got their money's worth from the Legislature. Too bad taxpayers are left holding the bill.

— *The Kansas City Star, via the Associated Press*

### Where to write, call

- U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774 [roberts.senate.gov/public/](http://roberts.senate.gov/public/)
- U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966. Fax (202) 225-5124 [moran.senate.gov/public/](http://moran.senate.gov/public/)
- U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: [huelskamp.house.gov](http://huelskamp.house.gov)
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 136-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 [Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov)
- State Rep. Ward Cassidy**, (120th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 151-S, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7616 [ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov](mailto:ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov)
- State Rep. Don Hineman**, (118th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 50-S, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7636 [don.hineman@house.ks.gov](mailto:don.hineman@house.ks.gov)

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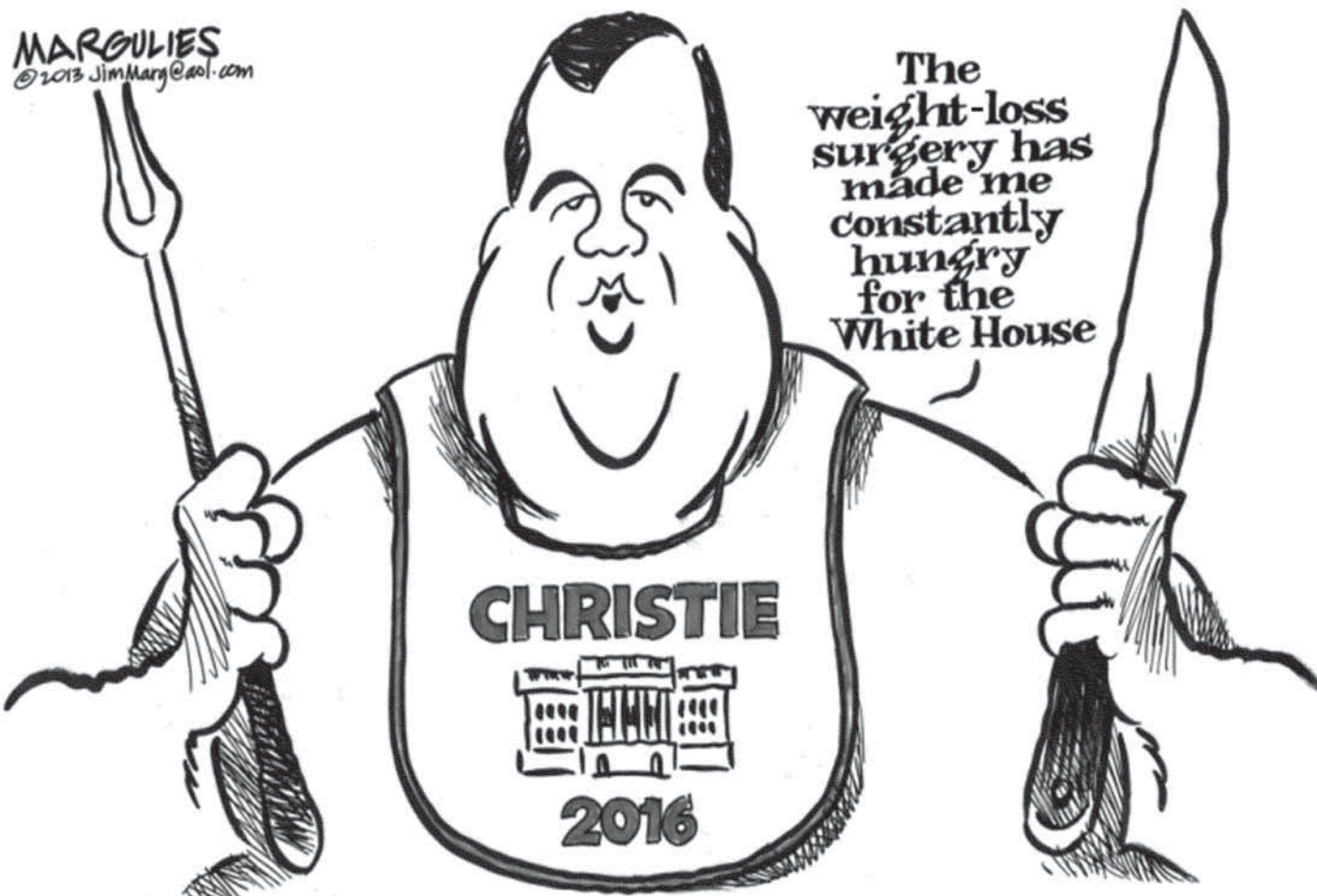
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### Scholarships can bring kids home again

Everyone bemoans the fact that we're losing population, leaving business and few of our kids want to come home, even if they could find jobs.

But, pretty much, no one does anything about those problems.

For instance, nearly every group that gives a scholarship to Colby High graduates just gives kids money to go to college. There's not much thought about where they will use the knowledge they acquire once they graduate.

And when they go to the city and find a good-paying job, no one will question the value of their education. It's our tradition, formed a century or more ago, to raise money to send kids to school.

Back in the day, no one thought to ask where they might settle. Back in the day, we just assumed most of them would come back to jobs here, to run the family business, teach at the school or work downtown.

Back in the day, and we're talking the turn of the 20th century and after, that was the norm. We figured if we gave graduates money to go to school, most of them would come home, and if a few went off to success elsewhere in business, a university, the arts, politics or military life, why so much the better. We'd all be proud.

All that changed after World War II. The decline in rural population accelerated as farmers could afford bigger and better machinery.



**Steve Haynes**

- Along the Sappa

More importantly, our fathers and grandfathers who'd been overseas fighting for democracy wanted something more.

They didn't want to come home to the family business. They wanted to live in the new, burgeoning suburbs. Others who'd moved to the city wanted to stay with the factory jobs that had drawn them.

Yet out here in rural America, we kept on raising money to send our kids to college. No one thought to ask if we were just paying them to leave town. No matter how many left, or how many failed to come home, tradition held.

Maybe this would be a good time to change that. It's still a good idea, the right thing to do, to raise money for scholarships.

But do we have to just pay kids to move to the city?

Could organizations look at their scholarships and ask what they want them to accomplish? It might be a good idea.

It'd be simple to just add a few strings. Give scholarships not for becoming a nurse, but for

becoming a nurse and working five years in this county. Give scholarships not just to the brightest or hardest-working students, but to the brightest, hardest-working who promise to live in their home town for five years after school.

It might not work every time. Kids change their majors, their minds and their goals in college. Some might drop out of a scholarship program that encourages them to return home after school.

But enough who know the rules might just come home to make a difference in the trends of declining population and business numbers that beset our town — and nearly every town in rural America.

What, at this point, have we got to lose — except our youths, our economy and our towns?

Why not try it?

*Steve Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers. When he has the time, he'd rather be reading a good book or casting a fly.*



### Charitable giving more critical than ever

As millions of Americans filed their tax returns a few weeks ago, many took into account how much they had given to charities. According to Giving USA, Americans gave nearly \$300 billion in 2011 to support important programs and services, from food pantries and medical research to youth programs and seed grants to start new businesses.

Because of the generous annual donations of millions of Americans, nonprofits have impacted the lives of countless individuals.

Consider the impact made on the life of William Wilkerson, a 16-year-old Kansan. At age 3, William was diagnosed with moderate to severe bilateral hearing loss. After visiting several doctors, William was taken to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, where he was fitted with special hearing aids. He later put into words what he experienced that day, "With so many different things that I had never heard before, it was as if somebody had turned on the world!"

Hearing and speech clinic Manager Denise Miller, said that because of their donor support, they can "fit the most appropriate hearing aids on each and every child, based on their own unique needs." In 2011, the clinic fit nearly 500 patients with hearing aids — bringing the world of sound to their ears.

But Congress and the Obama administration are now considering changes to the 100-year-old tradition of providing tax incentives for charitable giving. One such proposal, included in President Obama's 2014 budget, is to cap the total value of tax deductions at 28 percent for higher income Americans — including the charitable deduction.

According to the Charitable Giving Coalition, this proposal could reduce donations to the nonprofit sector by more than \$5.6 billion



**U.S. Senator Jerry Moran**

- Moran's Memo

every year. This cut amounts to more than the annual operating budgets of the American Red Cross, Goodwill, the YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Catholic Charities, and the American Cancer Society combined.

A reduction in giving of this magnitude would have a devastating impact on the future of charitable organizations in our country. Nonprofits are best equipped to provide assistance on the local level and can often do so in a far more effective manner than the government. Studies have shown that for every \$1 subject to the charitable deduction, communities receive \$3 in benefits. Americans understand the value and impact of the charitable deduction, which is why a recent

United Way Worldwide survey found that two out of every three Americans are opposed to reducing the charitable tax deduction.

Given our country's current economic situation, more Americans have turned to nonprofits for help in recent years. According to the Nonprofit Finance Fund, 85 percent of nonprofits experienced higher demand for their services in 2011 and at least 70 percent have seen increased demand since 2008. Our country depends on a strong philanthropic sector to provide a safety net of services, especially given tighter local and state budgets.

In times of crisis, Americans also depend

on services provided by organizations like the American Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity to help them rebuild their lives. In May of 2007, an EF5 tornado swept through Greensburg, leaving 95 percent of the community destroyed. Diana Torres, a single mom, had lived in Greensburg with her two children for nearly seven years when the tornado destroyed the home they rented. Torres was faced with the likelihood of having to move out of state, when Wichita Habitat for Humanity stepped in to build a new home with 1400 volunteers. Because of special financing and donated supplies, Torres could afford to buy the home for her family. Linda Stewart, executive director of Wichita Habitat for Humanity said those who support Habitat "know they are making a difference in someone's life that lasts for years."

Since the founding of our nation, neighbors have been lending a helping hand to one another. The charitable deduction is just one way to encourage that tradition to continue. Any cap or reduction in tax incentives would have long-lasting negative consequences, not only to the generous donor, but to the millions of Americans who rely on the services provided by charitable organizations. With our economy still recovering and many still struggling to provide for their families, Congress should be encouraging Americans to give more, not less.

*Jerry Moran of Hays is the junior U.S. senator from Kansas. His committee appointments include Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Veterans Affairs; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Special Committee on Aging. To sign up for his weekly newsletter, go to [moran.senate.gov](http://moran.senate.gov).*

### Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

