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Our children are precious

On July 1, Gov. Kelly mandated mask usage. Our county commissioners resisted until July 14 after they saw a frightening rise in cases. Our new Reno cases rose to over 100 with a positivity rate of over 10%. States ignored the CDC guidelines and reopened too quickly without first lowering cases and positivity rates.

To repeat this same mistake with our schools, endangering both our children and school staff is beyond the pale. Bethel College in Newton tested 500 students and staff last week. There were 50 positives which equals 10% who were asymptomatic (no symptoms). To flood 4,400 students into our schools to meet an arbitrary start date of Aug. 27 is not just foolhardy, it is dangerous.

Why? Why the rush? Why ignore science and math? Why open only to have to close again as many have already done? In consultation with Kansas Health director Dr. Norman, Gov. Kelly recommended delaying school until Sept. 9 to give counties time to lower their cases and their positivity rates to below 5%.

This is not the flu. U.S. death rates had fallen but have arisen to over 1,000 deaths, of all ages, daily over the last three weeks. Many with COVID-19 have only mild symptoms. Too many have been hospitalized. Doctors now know that many have long-lasting damage to hearts, lungs, neurological issues and small blood clots, regardless of age.

An NCAA doctor has seen myocarditis in young athletes. Begin school on-line until it is safer. Test all of our kids prior to beginning in-person classes. If we can test nursing homes weekly, which I strongly support, then we can test our kids. Why ignore CDC guidelines, NIH Dr. Fauci, Dr. Norman and our county health officer Nick Baldetti? The USD 308 board should do their homework.

Our children are precious. Let's treat them as such.

Karen Kennedy , Hutchinson

Furthering agendas

A nation as big as the U.S. is always going to have a police incident that one group or another feels was unjustified. The only recourse is to follow the recommendations of an independent investigation.

A lawful society can never allow innocent citizens to be victimized or society at large to be held hostage to the tantrums of an aggrieved minority.

There is no justification for innocent people being set upon by arsonists, looters or organized agitators who use these uninvestigated incidents to further their own anger, political agenda or common thievery while masquerading behind the word protester.

If these criminals were charged for the felonies they committed instead of an overnighter in the local jail you would see a decline in this kind of behavior.

When President Trump began prosecution of vandals for the destruction of national monuments it's amazing how quickly it stopped.

**Gregory Bontrager, Hutchinson**

Midwest values

Growing up on a farm in Kingman, County in the 50's and 60's I learned many values. Since I was the oldest boy and largest, my parents always taught me to not use my advantages for my own benefits. I was to look out for the little ones as my parents instructed. All during my life I have tried to follow these instructions. After learning about Jesus at an early age this instruction seemed to follow right in line with what Jesus taught.

In my business practices as a farmer and rancher I also tried to carry this premise into my daily life. In renting pasture for my cattle I leased from three widows. Unbeknownst to any of them I paid them more than the rest of my landlords. When one of my non-widowed landlords found out about this, he asked me to pay him at the same rate that I had paid the widows. When I told him that I paid my widowed landlords more than the others, he said no more, for he was an honorable man.

This brings me to my reason for my outrage. When our president belittled and harassed the widow of a recently deceased congressman last Christmas, even implying her husband was in Hell, that was too much.

When I spoke to a nearby printer about having him print a bumper sticker for me about our president insulting a widow. He said that he thought the president had committed worse sins than just that. After the printer made several suggestions I agreed to a bumper sticker on blue paper that said. "Trump: Insults Veterans and Women, Cages Kids: Is This How You Make America Great?" Enough said!

Alan Albers, Cunningham

#### **CITATION (AGLC STYLE)**

'The Western Front', *Hutchinson News, The* (online), 29 Aug 2020 A6  
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