

OPINION

Bluegrass Beacon

Seeing through the 'Web' of secret spending

Simon Bolivar liberated South America from its Spanish occupiers during the early 19th century and was often referred to as the "George Washington of South America." He once said: "Every citizen has the right to maintain vigilance over the public treasury. Its conservation is in the public interest."

Bolivar knew what he was talking about. He understood that being attentive to how government spends equates to conserving our tax money. That's why taxpayers should call for their legislators to support Rep. Jim DeCesare's attempt to shine a brighter light on how our tax dollars are being spent in Frankfort. House Bill 105, the "Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2006," would create a Web site listing all state expenditures of more than \$5,000.

"It's smart government," DeCesare said. "It's time to let the citizens of Kentucky see how their dollars are spent. This should be a no-brainer."

gled to come to your church, club or school to speak. Email me and give me your Email and/or phone number and the name of your organization and I will have Dr. Scott get in touch with you.

Dale Greer is a member of the faculty at Morehead State University. He has an expansive background in media including award winning reporting and stints as a major television anchor.

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Bluegrass Beacon By Jim Waters

senable politicians until they either gag or cry "uncle" and let the people in on the action. As DeCesare told me: "A little bit of transparency goes a long way."

It's true. Take, for example, what happened after the Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy started putting lawmakers' missed votes online on its KentuckyVotes.org Web site in 2006. During the 2005 General Assembly - before the advent of KentuckyVotes.org - legislators in the House and Senate raised a combined total of 2,999 votes. After the politicians learned the public could watch online, an amazing thing happened: many of their voting records, including a 54-percent drop in the overall number of missed votes between 2005 and 2007.

Just a little bit of transparency caused legislators to do their jobs and cast votes. I'm betting that, like Bolivar said, shining the light on spending would result in the "conservation" of the treasury by restraining legislators as they spend our money.

Opening it up would allow legislators to be held accountable for their actions. It's certainly hope it's not as hard to bring Kentucky's checkbook out of the shadows as it was for Bolivar to defat the Spanish at Carthage.

citizens and government-watchdog groups to have the information needed to make government accountable and hold down spending. The CIA-like atmosphere in Frankfort around budget time these days does just the opposite.

For example, it's impossible to measure the veracity of former Gov. Ernie Fletcher's claim of a budget surplus. Conversely, is the cupboard as bare as his replacement claims? Who knows? The citizenry cannot "maintain vigilance" over the treasury when those same citizens don't know enough about what's happening with their money who it's being doled out to and whether those spending decisions are benefiting all Kentuckians rather than just a few who happen to make big campaign contributions, or have especially effective lobbyists.

Fiscally conservative policies always serve the best interest of the public (read: taxpayers) - getting some politicians in Frankfort to adhere to fiscally responsible policies - with the money rolling in and out like bets at casinos - is like fighting an entire revolution uphill.

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GREER

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viding for their employees. Walmart greeth and Walmart taketh away. What the private sector can or will not provide, the government must. Universal health care is obviously the only solution.

Dr. Scott wonders if people realize how serious the problem is. He bluntly states, "absent health insurance leads to early death, and if you don't die, you will likely be bankrupt."

Dr. Scott is confident the administrative efficiency and elimination of the profit motive in a single-payer plan would be enough to keep health costs from rising. He says the 300 billion in administrative costs that would be saved with a national plan would be enough to insure everyone in the United States.

The experts back him up. For years, independent analyses from the Congressional Budget Office and private consulting firms have found a single-payer, national health-insurance system could do just what Dr. Scott says it could.

The Morehead Internet says choice of physicians would still be preserved in a "private fee-for-service arrangement."

If you are in favor of a national health care plan, let your elected officials know. If you want to learn more about it, Dr. Scott will be

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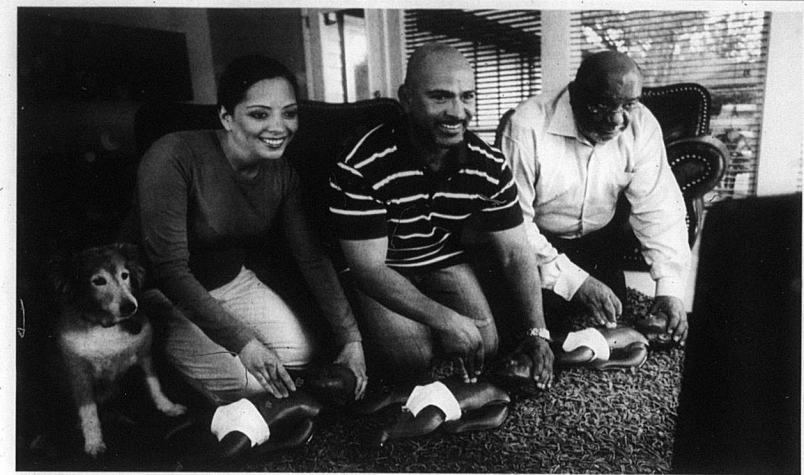
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HEALTHY LIVING



Generations Prepared CPR for Everyone

Approximately 310,000 Americans die every year due to coronary heart disease, most often attributed to a sudden cardiac arrest suffered outside the hospital setting or in the emergency department. Nearly 80 percent of these arrests occur at home, so after you call 911, you often provide life-saving care to a family member or friend while waiting for help. This critical, life-saving skill - cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) - is one that the American Heart Association wants many more Americans to be ready to perform when necessary.

- Although it may not be something we want to think about, sobering statistics compel us to act:
- Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double a victim's chance of survival.
- Infant CPR can be effective for infants who suffer cardiac arrest or whose airways become blocked by food or other objects.
- Approximately 94 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.
- Death from sudden cardiac arrest is not inevitable. If more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved.

Special Care for Infants

Grandparents, parents and others who care for children need to know how to perform the relatively simple skills of infant CPR and relief from choking, which can make a life-or-death difference for infants.
- The American Heart Association developed guidelines that were used as the basis of the infant kit.
- This new training program can be used to learn skills that could help save the life of an infant (newborn to 12 months).
- The kit includes a one-of-a-kind infant CPR manikin, a training DVD and two quick-reference skills reminders.
- The Mini Baby manikin is an inflatable version of a traditional infant CPR manikin. An instructional DVD walks users through each step of CPR because the training materials are contained in an at-home kit. Infant CPR allows all family members to learn and brush up on skills periodically.
- "Although it's a skill no one wants to use, the more family members that know infant CPR the better," said Monica Kleinman, MD, Children's Hospital Boston. "This checklist people to learn infant CPR who otherwise would not have that opportunity."

Help Yourself Help Loved Ones

Recognizing that far too many Americans are not prepared to do CPR when it's needed, the American Heart Association created a simple, accessible way for people to learn CPR at home in less than 25 minutes:
- The Family & Friends CPR Anytime kit includes everything needed for self-directed CPR training: a manikin, DVD and resource booklet.
- The CPR home training can be used in the convenience of the living room or family room.
- A single kit allows the whole family - parents, grandparents, siblings and other relatives or friends - to learn life-saving CPR.
- "There are many excuses for not taking a life-saving CPR course. People don't have enough time, they're afraid of embarrassing themselves in the classroom, or they don't think they'll ever have to provide CPR," said Robert E. Connor, MD, chairman, Emergency Cardiovascular Care committee for the American Heart Association. "Family & Friends CPR Anytime removes traditional training obstacles by providing a brief and convenient way to learn CPR. With CPR Anytime, millions more people trained can result in thousands more lives saved.
- Being prepared to act quickly when a family member - adult, child or infant - suffers from sudden cardiac arrest can make the difference between life and death."

Infant CPR Anytime: Precious Life-Saving at Home

New parents, expectant parents, grandparents and siblings now have a simple, convenient way to learn to perform infant CPR and to relieve choking in less than 25 minutes - the Infant CPR Anytime Personal Learning Program.
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