

OPINION

**FIRST AMENDMENT** “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

OUR VIEW

Learn from mistakes

Mistakes in handling Ebola cases have apparently been made. Now it’s time to learn from those mistakes and put in place protocols to keep this disease from spreading in the U.S.

A congressional hearing conducted on Capitol Hill Thursday discussed mistakes made in diagnosing Ebola and in protecting health care workers in Dallas. Perhaps more importantly, the hearing also included discussions about how to keep those mistakes from happening at other medical centers across the nation.

Researchers still don’t know what caused two nurses, Nina Pham and Amber Vinson, to get infected with Ebola while treating the first patient, Thomas Eric Duncan, who eventually died.

The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Tom Frieden, told Congress the CDC is taking a closer look at personal protective equipment used at the Texas hospital where the two nurses worked. Prior to the hearing, he said proper safety protocols used for decades were not followed by the nurses when they disrobed from their protective suits.

It’s important hospitals everywhere, including those in Minnesota, ensure their staff be familiar with personal protective equipment and know how to put them on and take

them off properly.

In addition, staff in every hospital ought to be discussing how they would handle a case of Ebola, or some other contagious disease. Every hospital in this nation needs a plan for how to first isolate someone suspected of the disease, and second how to quickly diagnose Ebola should someone showing symptoms who has recently traveled to places where Ebola has been identified.

Clearly the risk of the disease spreading in the U.S. is causing concern. Some members of the public have called for quarantining passengers on flights from countries that have had cases diagnosed. Nurses and doctors are seeking more information about the disease and how to handle it. A news briefing Wednesday drew calls from 6,200 health care workers across the nation to hear the CDC discuss the recent cases in Texas.

Many hospital officials have said they have plans in place intended to keep a contagious disease in check and they are reviewing plans to ensure they are adequate and include the latest guidance.

Panic certainly won’t help. Instead, following the best practices for control of contagious diseases and keeping health care workers equipped with the protections they need will help keep this nation safe.



PAID ELECTION LETTER

Droba: Young, forward thinking, accomplished

To the editor,

Center Ward and area residents:

I’m writing today to add my voice to those endorsing Harley Droba for City Council from the Center Ward.

I’ve known Harley for a decade now, and I was encouraged and excited to hear that he was adding public service to the long list of community actives for which he’s well known. Harley and I worked

together on the Icebox Radio Theater where he served as board president from 2007 to 2011, a period of incredible expansion and growth for our group. Most people are aware of Harley’s entrepreneurial spirit both as manager of the Espresso Lane and former owner of the International House of Bowling, but his time with the IBRT revealed to me that Harley has a keen sense of how a nonprofit

should work, and that he understands the potential of arts to positively impact our community.

When I consider all the challenges facing our town, and consider the kinds of skills and personalities that can move us forward, I find Harley Droba is an excellent example of the kind of leader we need. Young, forward thinking, and accomplished, he’s also a good family

man, a veteran, and a life-long member of our community. No, he doesn’t exactly look like a member of the ‘old boy club’ we’re used to occupying local leadership, but for me, that’s exactly why I support his candidacy. Vote Harley!

**Jeffrey Adams**  
director, Icebox  
Radio Theater  
International Falls,  
MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Rob Ecklund is a proven county leader

To editor,

It is my pleasure to endorse Rob Ecklund for re-election as District 4 commissioner for the Koochiching County Board. My first encounter with Rob was in October 2009 when we met at the Blandin Community Leadership Program. During this intensive week-long program I got to know Rob and experience first-hand his passion and dedication to our area, its youth and citizens of all ages. Many of us

came away from the week with a renewed interest and commitment to our community. Rob was one of those individuals who took his leadership experience one step further by seeking to serve his community as a county commissioner

In 2010 Rob campaigned successfully for the District 4 position and has served his constituents for four years. During that time he has listened to citizens and balanced concerns of constituents who reside both in the city

and county. Rob Ecklund was asked to serve on the Economic Response Team following the Boise lay-offs and has helped our area deal with the impact of those job losses. He’s been an active leader of the effort to reinvigorate our area and an advocate for economic development throughout the county. During last summer’s flooding Rob, serving as County Board chair, was a key leader in the effort to deal with the disaster and its aftermath.

Commitment to community, connecting with constituents, collaborating with other levels of government, and concern for others are all qualities that describe Rob Ecklund. Proven leadership, experience, commitment, character and forward thinking all make Rob Ecklund the best choice for District 4 County commissioner. Vote Nov. 4 to re-elect Rob Ecklund.

**Ward Merrill**  
International Falls,  
MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Schwartz has record of community service

To the editor,

Joe Schwartz has worked diligently for the past 15 years for the youth of our community as he has served on the Rec Board. The policies that have been implemented under his leadership have created a safer environment for our

children.

The new electric Zamboni, he worked to purchase, will provide healthier air quality for our kids and adults at Kerry Park Arena.

Joe will work hard for the voters of the Center Ward and all the citizens of

International Falls. He will listen to your concerns and be your voice at the City Council.

Joe will attend his committee meetings and will be an informed participant. Joe finishes what he starts. You can count on it.

Please be an informed voter. Look at Joe’s record of community service and make your choice based on the facts and past performance.

**Gail Rognerud**  
Center Ward  
Councilor  
International Falls, MN

PAID ELECTION LETTER

Brian Jespersen has integrity, moral value

To the editor,

I am writing this letter in support of Brian Jespersen’s campaign for election of Koochiching County sheriff.

I have known Brian for several years and it

has been his integrity and moral value that has made him a trusted colleague in this profession and a respected community leader. Brian is a man of faith, who truly

cares for the citizens of Koochiching County and considers his job a calling to serve.

I support Brian Jespersen as Koochiching County sheriff as he has demonstrated and proven

that he will do the right thing for the citizens of Koochiching County.

Respectfully,  
**Sheriff Victor J. Williams**  
Itasca County, MN

How to contact your lawmakers

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**President Barack Obama**  
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The Journal welcomes letters from readers

Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author’s city address will be published.

Mail letters to The Journal, 1602 Highway 71, International Falls 56649. Letters can also be sent by e-mail to laurel@ifallsjournal.com.

Candidate letter policy

The beginning of 2014 brought a new policy to The Journal. A charge of \$30 will be required to publish letters to the editor from candidates or about candidates. The letters must be 500 words or less and the fee must be paid prior to the letter being published. The name and city of the author will be published with the letter.

Letters may be emailed to laurel@ifallsjournal.com. The Journal will publish a deadline for publication of paid election letters prior to the Aug. 12 primary and Nov. 4 general elections.

These letters will not be published the week prior to the Nov. 4 general election, so the editions of Oct. 25, Oct. 29 and Nov. 1 will not carry paid election letters.