

Letters to the editor

Trafficking bill requires action

On June 19, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report, which ranks 184 countries (including the United States) on their efforts to combat human trafficking. The U.S. has long been a global leader in the fight against modern-day slavery, but so far the current Congress has failed to pass a critical piece of anti-trafficking legislation: The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

This bill renews the landmark TVPA of 2000, which made human trafficking a federal crime and established the Trafficking in Persons Office to combat trafficking internationally. Fighting slavery has always been a rare point of bipartisan cooperation in Washington, and Congress should come together again to help rid the world of slavery, once and for all.

To learn more about local, national and international modern-day slavery, save the weekend of Oct. 5-7, which will be the second annual Freedom Weekend in Lancaster. Various events will be taking place to educate the public about this modern-day tragedy which should have been truly abolished long ago.

Diane Adams, West Hempfield Township

Why fund education on property tax?

The Fourth Amendment of the Constitution gives "the right of the people to be secure in their person, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures ..."

Thanks to the property tax, which our great representatives recently tabled, this unreasonable tax will continue and property will continue to be seized.

Why is it reasonable to tax only the property owners to support the public school system? For many property owners, the need for schools is no longer of family benefit. We do recognize the value of public education for all citizens, why then should not all contribute to maintain it?

To me it seems to be too easy for school boards to buy and spend as they desire. It's difficult for me to see how it now costs the property owner \$12,745 per student per year to obtain a basic education for our children. I must admit that I come from a generation that was taught in a one-room school house, one teacher and two outhouses. It was sufficient to let me gain a college degree, graduate work and a satisfying engineering career. It even served me well in my 11 years of military service.

I'm sorry that my education and nine decades of life will not let me understand how the cost did not enhance our education standards.

Fred Hiepler, Leola