

OPINION

Editorial

Mother knows best

With Mother's Day coming up this Sunday, our editorial staff wanted to take a moment to reflect and give thanks for the powerful mothers and grandmothers who have shaped our lives.



Rita J. Egan: I think about unconditional love moms give, especially my own. I feel life is a little easier when you have a mother who doesn't raise you with her own expectations as to how you should lead your life, but allows you to make your own choices based on what feels right.



Desirée Keegan: My mother is my rock. Growing up as one of two children of a single mother, I saw firsthand what hard work and sacrifice really are. She worked most hours of the day, yet made each moment with us memorable. Through bouncing from house to house — even living in a hotel for six months — my brother and I always had smiles on our faces. And she still finds a way to make me laugh. Since I was waist-high she'd spin me around the kitchen dancing to Michael

Jackson or Luther Vandross, forever leading the way. I can always count on her, and I want her to know she can always count on me.



Victoria Espinoza: The first thing that comes to mind when I think of my mom is how unapologetically genuine she is. She can laugh at herself when she tries — and fails — to keep up with the times, she knows she'll cry at any sad scene and will never hold back her tears, and she doesn't care how many people hear her talk to her dogs (a trait I'm guilty of as well). She has taught me that above all else, the only thing I need to be in

this world is authentically me.



Alex Petroski: My mom spent my entire childhood trying to make my life and the lives of my two brothers better than hers and her siblings'. When I was a teenager, she went back to school to finally dedicate a little time to fulfilling goals she had for her own life. Her day-to-day work ethic and drive, and her refusal to give in when things were toughest were not lost on me, and I'm a better person for it. And sorry to break it to you, she's a better cook than your mom.



Kevin Redding: My mom is my hero. She raised me on her own for the first six years of my life and, even though that couldn't have been easy, my permanent memory of her in those days is her big bright smile and complete determination to make sure I was the happiest kid in the world. She is the strongest, funniest, coolest, sweetest, most kind-hearted, generous and encouraging person I've ever known. There's never

been anything I felt I couldn't tell her and she has an unparalleled ability to turn any bad situation into a good one — anybody who's ever crossed paths with her knows just how infectious her energy and optimism are. Not only does my mom brighten up a room, she fills it with song ("Me and Bobby McGee" by Janis Joplin being her favorite) and no-holds-barred dancing (A little mix of Napoleon Dynamite and Ed Grimley). She's a hardcore vegan who loves and protects animals, she does everything she can to take care of the needy, can throw a baseball like nobody's business, loves to garden, and is always there when I need her. I love ya, Mom.

Don't forget to call the mother figures in your life this weekend and thank them for all they do.

Letters to the editor



Why you should support a single-payer plan

There are tons of reasons to support a single-payer health care system in New York State. There is the moral case for health care as a human right, which argues that all Americans, regardless of their social class, should be able to see a doctor and get medicine when they are sick. If that does not convince you, there is the argument for efficiency. There are many countries that currently use a single-payer system, such as England, France, Canada, and Australia (which President Trump just acknowledged has a superior health care system to our own). Numerous studies of these systems have shown that they provide universal coverage, better outcomes, and lower costs than the American system of private health companies. There is also a general argument for individual savings for the overwhelming majority of Americans, 98% of which would pay less in a single-payer system than they are currently paying in premiums, copays, and deductibles. The list goes on and on.

However, there is one powerful reason that is rarely men-

tioned and would be particularly helpful for those living on Long Island: the substantial reduction of property taxes. Anyone who lives on Long Island knows that we have extremely high property taxes; no conversation about life on Long Island concludes without a property tax complaint. It is one of the main factors causing a local brain drain, as many young adults decide not to return to Long Island after college because they cannot afford to live on their own. High property taxes drive up rent costs and make a future of homeownership seem out of reach.

A recent report by Darius Shahinfar, treasurer for the City of Albany, shows that passing single-payer in New York, would open the door for drastic reductions in property taxes across the state. While much of our property tax goes to education on Long Island, a significant portion goes to fund Medicare. The New York Health Act, the single-payer bill being debated in Albany, provides a different funding stream for an expanded Medicare-for-all system, freeing up local county governments

to lower property taxes. He estimated that in Albany "city taxpayers would conservatively save 28 percent of their entire tax bills in property taxes with a single-payer system" and added that taxpayers in other counties would see comparable savings. Additionally, the higher the value of one's home, the larger the savings would be, making Nassau and Suffolk County residents some of the biggest beneficiaries of the NY Health Act's property tax reductions. Even those in the top 2% (families making over \$400,000 a year), who are the only folks asked to pay more than they are under the current system, would be paying less overall due to the savings in property taxes.

Sick of paying high property taxes? Sick of paying huge monthly premiums, copays, and deductibles? Kill two birds with one stone. Contact your state representatives in the Assembly and Senate and tell them to support the New York Health Act today.

Ron Widelec
Commack

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