

Bipartisan action can get Dumbo in the air

The Lowell Sun

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Two thumbs up for Kirk's political cartoon of Dumbo trying to fly and flopping (The Sun, July 19). Let's be clear: Kirk isn't saying Republicans are dumb. Kirk is saying that the GOP foolishly planned to fly solo, while simultaneously trying to carry alone an enormous health care insurance bill (it's so big that it impacts the health of tens of millions of Americans and affects roughly 20 percent of our economy). Republicans should have built consensus: with public hearings, conferences with hospital administrators, insurance industry consultations, and input from key governors. As a rule of thumb, when only a small group has their thumbs on the scale, they write unbalanced bills, and poor Dumbo couldn't fly. Contrast that poorly planned flop with the slowly developing Climate Solutions Caucus. Two congressmen -- a Republican and a Democrat -- established this House caucus 18 months ago. Every representative is welcome, provided they join with a member of the other party. The caucus has met with various stakeholders including leaders in energy, economics and environment. It now has 48 members, and is supported in all 50 states by tens of thousands of volunteers doing climate advocacy, education and consensus-building.

Last week 46 Republicans voted with House Democrats to protect a Defense Department program responsible for analyzing climate change's national security and strategic implications.

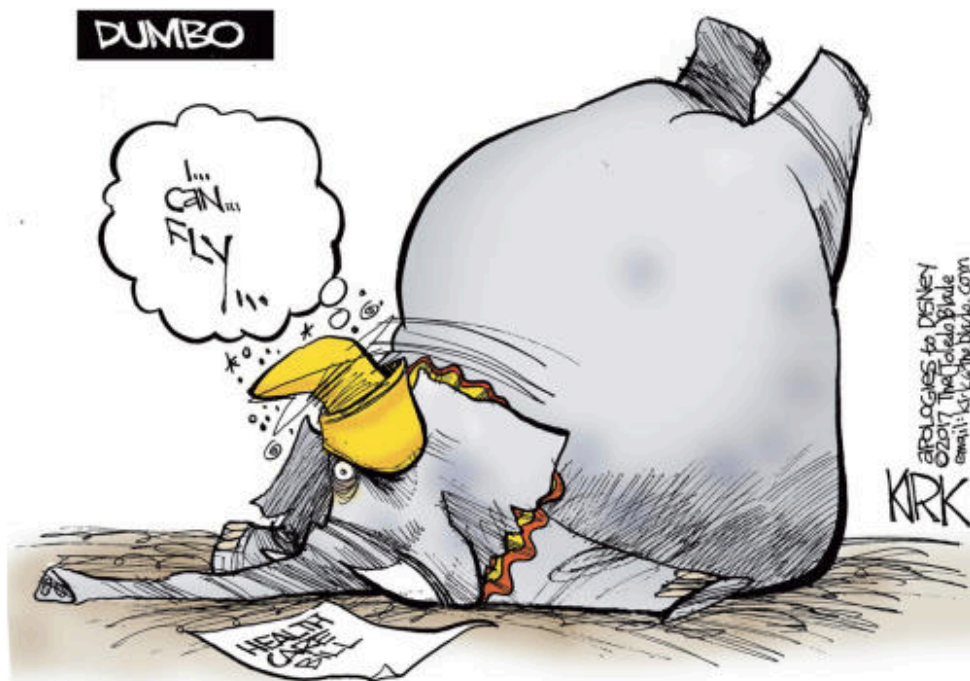
For our common good, Bay Staters should help Dumbo recover: we have nine representatives and one (Moulton) has already joined the caucus. Our other eight (Neal, McGovern, Tsongas, Kennedy, Clark, Capuano, Lynch, Keating) ought to thumb through that list of 46 Republicans and find caucus partners.

Helping the GOP fly properly serves our common good, and climate change legislation has slowly become a terrific bipartisan project.

JUDY WEISS

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Editorial Cartoon