

OPINION

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LETTERS

Civilized society offers mental health care

We, as a nation of many peoples, need to exercise compassion, not pacification, when addressing the needs of citizens living with a mental illness. Mental health recovery services are a step forward toward healing the personal tragedy and debilitating psychological wounds caused through stereotyping and stigmatization that is all too common in the communal consciousness. No person should ever be made to feel substandard for contracting a mental illness.

United in purpose, we Americans are unstoppable in achieving any reasonable ambition. We've successfully fought and repelled enemies of freedom and justice. We've put men on the moon. We've built a city-sized adult playground in a desert. Isn't investing in our most valuable asset, our citizens, a worthy aspiration? It needs to rank high in priority for any society considered civilized.

When the ability to provide quality mental health medical care and appropriate recovery treatment exists, so does hope.

Extending that hope to those who have little or none is not a sign of weakness; it is a stroke of genius.

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Folbert is the consumer representative on the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.