

The plot to kidnap, try in the kidnappers' "court," and possibly kill Governor Gretchen Whitmer should cause a wholesale sense of horror and revulsion in our state and in the whole country. This scheme was apparently hatched because of the Governor's directives in regard to the coronavirus, so I can only come to the conclusion that the people who support these radical rightwing militia groups and other groups who also promote violence against the government are just not very smart. Who would think that it was logical or even slightly understandable to go against public health measures that have proven effective around the world in preventing even more widespread disease and death from this virulent virus?

Oh, yes—I remember—the President of the United States is against such public health measures. Now, emboldened by his million dollar hospitalization and treatment—not available to most Americans, Trump is once again telling us to ignore the virus, because it is 1) going away and 2) not dangerous to most of us anyway.

That can't provide much comfort for the families of the over 215,000 Americans who have died from the virus during the past few months. It can't reassure those who are sick now with no promise of a sure recovery fueled by expensive drugs not provided for the rest of us. And it cannot make the health care workers feel better as they try to do their jobs at the risk of their own families' infection.

This plot against Governor Whitmer is worrisome even above dangers to her safety. It is also an indication of what we are in peril of becoming as a people. When some people believe that health practices that are both easy and scientifically uncontroversial are somehow eroding our rights to parade around the state Capitol building—and enter it—armed with weapons, there is something radically wrong with the body politic.

The short term remedy has been applied and will, given the good work of the F.B.I, state police, and other agencies in the plot against Gretchen Whitmer, continue to be important.

But, there is a long-term issue that could be addressed. I have wondered for years why "civics" or "government" is not a class that should be implemented from the beginning. Even kindergartners can learn what a President is, and what she is responsible for. As children move through the grades, more and more concepts could be gradually presented. There is no reason why young people could not be pretty complete in their understanding of what our responsibilities are as citizens.

There is much to the Constitution of the United States of America besides the Second Amendment. Do the gun-toting individuals touting their rights to go armed to nearly every conceivable type of gathering know what the 14th Amendment says? Do they know that Article II of the Constitution that Donald Trump says gives him "power to do whatever he wants," as he asserted doesn't say that at all? Are they aware of the Fifteenth Amendment that states that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude"? Do they know that treason does not mean

that Donald Trump can use the assertion to punish his enemies? They might want to read Article III, Section 3.

In fact, they might want to study all of the Constitution and the history of the ensuing years.