

Thanks so much for government support

Being a huge fan of creative writing, I enjoyed the Dec. 27 letter by my good friend and colleague Edward Wolfe, "More government is the wrong approach."

But much to the chagrin of Mr. Wolfe and other modern-day supporters of McCarthyism (those misguided and paranoid souls who tend to see socialists behind every door), we truly are all in this together.

When "natural" disasters strike, those most affected should not have to depend primarily on their own resources to mount an effective recovery.

To be American is to have a strong sense of responsibility for the well-being of our fellow citizens.

Is there waste and venality in government? Of course there is. But unless you've been living in a cave for the past few decades, you know the private sector is equally corrupt.

Look, I believe in the free market. Unlike many conservatives, however, I am acutely aware of its inherent limitations. Not everything is, or should be, about

generating a profit.

Did the free market abolish slavery? Did the free market desegregate our schools? Did the free market secure the vote for women?

Closer to home, did the free market pay for my mother's cancer treatment (over half a million dollars) during the last two years of her life?

The truth is without Medicare, there is no way — even in our wildest dreams — our family would have been able to come up with the money it took to keep mom alive and comfortable after her unfortunate diagnosis.

Thank goodness for government support and the growing realization that unrestrained capitalism is not the answer to all our problems.

The challenges facing this country are enormous and complex; we have got to get beyond the naïve and simple-minded notion that our only options for dealing with them are self-reliance and charity.

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