

MINORITY VIEWS

The Wrong Choice: Tax Cuts for Millionaires and Billionaires at the Expense of American Families, Our Economic Progress, and Our National Security

Nearly two months ago, we debated President Trump's budget. It was a shockingly extreme document that gave to the rich and took from everyone else. Democrats urged our Republican colleagues to see the harm it would bring to American families – the damage it would cause to our chances for a better future – and choose a different path when crafting their own budget.

But this budget again displays total indifference to the challenges Americans face. The House budget embraces the worst extremes of the Trump proposal: tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires at the expense of American families, our economic progress, and our national security.

The budget includes \$5.4 trillion in mandatory and discretionary spending cuts. It reduces non-defense discretionary investments to the lowest level, relative to the size of the economy, since the 1960s, and then cuts more. Our Republican colleagues are proud to talk about those cuts here in Washington. But what they do not want to talk about is how these cuts hurt the American people – so we will.

The enormity of these cuts and severity of the consequences for American families cannot be overstated.

Education, job training, transportation, infrastructure, medical research, and veteran services are all at risk. This budget cuts nearly \$700 billion from mandatory spending that helps provide basic living standards for struggling families. Then it cuts nearly half a trillion dollars from Medicare, and it ends the fundamental guarantee of Medicare coverage. It then embraces the overwhelmingly unpopular Trumpcare – which would strip more than 20 million Americans of health coverage, and makes nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid.

These are not just programs, they represent people. They are families that have never had a chance to get ahead, or fell on hard times after losing a job or a health emergency. We have all met constituents who would have gone without health care, or who would have had to choose between paying the rent and paying for food, without these programs being there when they needed them.

These programs can be a lifeline for millions of Americans all across the country. But all of that is at risk because of the drastic cuts in this budget. It is an incredibly cold document that willfully ignores the needs and priorities of the American people.

But it is not just the economic security of millions of families that is at risk in this budget, it is also our nation's security.


Our Republican colleagues have put on display a narrow worldview; one where our country's security is only about the size of our military. The Republican budget increases defense spending by an astonishing \$72 billion above the current cap – and more than \$18 billion above what even President Trump requested. We have a responsibility to ensure our men and women in uniform have every tool and resource needed to safely and successfully execute their mission – and we will. But military experts across the board have also stated that diplomacy, foreign aid, and environmental factors like climate change are key components of our national security. Yet our Republican colleagues ignore these facts and recklessly cut funding for the State Department and foreign aid agencies by over \$11 billion and environmental and natural resource protection by over \$6 billion.


Funding our military at the expense of critical national priorities is not a choice our Republican colleagues have to make, and it is certainly not a choice the American people want them to make. Which begs the question, why are they making it?

The answer is as simple as it is disgraceful. So that millionaires, billionaires, and wealthy corporations can get a tax cut. They have made the choice to give everyone in the top one percent a \$240,000 tax cut while taking breakfast and lunch away from hungry school children. They have made the choice to give everyone in the top one-tenth-of-one percent of income a \$1.4 million tax cut while cutting health care for seniors in nursing homes, low-income children, and the disabled.


These are not choices Democrats would make. The list of upside-down priorities and irresponsible policies in this document is lengthy. Democrats have a different vision of our country and for the American people. We want to invest in the future of American families, create good jobs, and help grow our economy. Democrats support investments in education, health care, national security, job training, innovation, and infrastructure. We support programs that help individuals with nowhere left to turn, and a tax code that helps families get ahead. Those are American priorities – and they should be the priorities of this Congress and our Committee.

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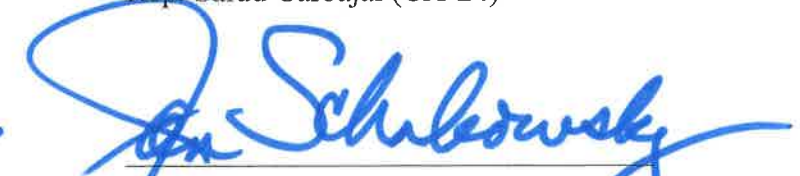

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