

MAKING AMERICA GROSS AGAIN: BIG FUGLY BILL HITS THE SENATE FLOOR [UPDATE]

[NB: check the byline, thanks. Updates will be added at the bottom of this post. /~Rayne]

Trump's big ugly bill will be up for a vote in the Senate this morning.

It takes money from hungry children and gives it to the already rich as Marcy has previously said, and the Center for Budget Policy and Priorities has quantified.



But this bill is a mortal menace to many Americans because of the bill's cuts to Medicaid.

ER doctor McNadoMD spelled out the revolting death threats this bill poses:



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I know I keep saying it, but EVERYONE in the US needs to understand that if nursing homes close and the people in them don't have the medicaid funding that pays for their housing and care, EVERYONE who uses a hospital anywhere in the US will suffer. It will take no time before ERs are full of long-stay homeless elderly and disabled people. There will be no staff or rooms to take care of heart attacks, trauma, and strokes. The cost to hospitals will close many hospitals.

Jun 28, 2025, 11:09 PM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS



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Oh, and the answer Republicans will have to hospitals closing is to get rid of EMTALA, so hospitals can hit you up for cash at the door. Guarantee it.

Jun 28, 2025, 11:13 PM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS

EMTALA: Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act of 1986. They want to ditch 39-year-

old legislation which assures Americans obtain

- a medical screening examination (MSE);
- are stabilized with an emergency medical condition;
- are transferred or accepted as a patient as appropriate and needed.

What are we left with if the GOP Senate knocks off EMTALA?



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Lol, you can't make this shit up. The senate version of the Big Terrible Bill cuts MORE from Medicaid than the House version, which was already terrible.

The Republicans who are supposed to be the elders, the adults in the room, took a bill that will kill people and close hospitals, and said "hold my high-dollar gin" and made deeper cuts.

Republicans want to kill you.

Jun 29, 2025, 12:42 AM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS



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In the US it takes a minimum of ten years to train a medical doctor (12 is typical for your family doc or internist, and for some specialists it is 16+ years). The Republican's cuts to the budget are going to close hospitals and destroy medical education. Doctors will absolutely leave the country, quit, and retire (many already are). How many years do you think it will take to rebuild?

Jun 29, 2025, 09:40 AM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS

We already lost so many health care professionals because of COVID and have yet to replace them. COVID also cost this nation hospitals, thanks in no small part to right-wing refuseniks who rejected vaccines and masks. Rural hospitals were at risk of closure before COVID; 19 were closed in 2019. A net 50 rural hospitals were closed between 2017 and 2023.

We simply don't have enough health care professionals or hospitals BEFORE the damage this bill's cuts could wreak.



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You where veterans end up when they can't get food and housing?
The emergency room.

Where do kids go when their parents can't afford heat and food?
The ER. Where does granny go when she is evicted from her
nursing home? The ER. Where does your nice neighbor in her
wheelchair go when her feet freeze in winter after Republicans take
away her heating assistance? The ER.

My ER has 19 beds at the moment. Two are curtained-off rooms.
We have one shower, and it doesn't have a patient lift. Do the math

Jun 29, 2025, 09:44 AM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS

My 94-year-old father-in-law, a veteran, died last August. He ended up in the ER more than three times inside his last 18 months because his nursing home couldn't handle his needs – basically a soft form of eviction until he was stabilized and returned to the home. This happened in a small town where the resources for his care were limited. If the local hospital closed, he'd have simply been evicted and died.

But I suspect the GOP doesn't give a shit about lifelong GOP voters once they're as elderly as my FIL was, without the kind of money to burn on political donations. They certainly don't care about veterans. The GOP congressional caucus has become the death panels they warned us about.



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"If you don't have insurance you can always go to the ER"

Yeah, and then we bill you, except the bill is at the highest possible rate because a multi-billion-dollar corporation didn't cut a discount deal for you. That debt then gets sent to collections, because you can't afford it. Then it ruins your credit, and you are always in this hole paying for your health.

Jun 29, 2025, 12:46 PM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS



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"People who lose Medicaid can still just go to the ER"

The ER is required by EMTALA to provide a medical screening examination, and to stabilize emergency medical conditions.

Medication refill? Not required.

Chemotherapy? Nope.

MRI for your knee? Nope.

Dental care? Nope.

Chronic pain? No.

Alcohol or substance use treatment? No again.

Jun 29, 2025, 12:50 PM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS

And who pays for the unpaid ER visits – before the hospital goes bankrupt? We who have private insurance do, through increases to our premiums as hospitals increase overall charges to absorb the losses. This is an invisible tax on us, where Medicaid is fully visible.



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Try this one on and see how you feel:

Patients with dead kidneys need dialysis to survive. Most of them are on Medicaid. Kick them off, they can't get dialysis. They wait until the last possible moment to go to the ER, where we admit them for dialysis, putting them into heinous debt. One day they wait too long. Their lungs fill with fluid and they drown while sitting on the couch gasping for air.

It already happens. It got less common after Obamacare. Do you want more of it now?

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Context edit here: American citizens needing dialysis are on Medicare, and the Republican budget does not cut those services dramatically.

When states expanded Medicaid after the ACA, many did include provisions for getting people who did not qualify for Medicare onto state-funded Medicaid services. For example, we used to have a handful of folks who came through the ER three days a week for dialysis because their immigration status kept them off of Medicare even though they were legally here.

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In other words this is a definite death sentence for a group of Americans and legal residents who have kidney failure.



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So you have a blood clot in your leg. Turns out you lost your Medicaid because Republicans took it away. The ER doc you see (because no primary office will see you as "self pay") prescribed the standard blood thinner. You go to the pharmacy. It is \$450/mo. The cheaper option is a few dollars, but you have to get blood tests every week for a while, and the clinics that used to do that don't exist anymore, and remember, you are self pay now. So you don't get treatment.

Jun 29, 2025, 01:00 PM · 🌐 · Mastodon for iOS



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Your kid has asthma. They turn 21, lose their CHIP, and don't qualify for Medicaid because Republicans took it away. While at work, they breathe in someone's perfume. Their small airways immediately start to constrict. The wheezing and chest tightness starts. They realize they're in trouble, and grab their inhaler. It has one puff left, because they have been stretching the dose and can't afford a new one. Gasping, wheezing, sweating. Someone calls 911. You find them brain-dead in the ICU.

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I don't have words for this, but this is reality.



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Kellyanne Conway wants people who lose Medicaid to get a job.

Let's look at some typical examples.

- single mom (dad died in accident) with two kids, one of whom requires 24/7 care in the home because of an infection as a baby.
- 59 year old guy with a destroyed leg and broken back after being hit by a car as a teen.
- 23 year old male who has to use pictures to communicate because he had a stroke last year
- 40s female with heart failure, who is also caregiver for her 80 year old mother.

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This is a *real* massacre being staged in the Senate, Kellyanne.

Across America especially in smaller cities and towns, Americans are going to face increasing poverty, illness, and death if this big fugly bill passes.

~ ~ ~

I need to get this post up so that you can see the problem and start working the phones and emails. I'll continue to add to this post for a bit because you need to read what this ER doctor says about the bill's likely impact if it passes.

Contact your senators and tell them this bill, H.R. 1 "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" is simply not acceptable. Contact your family and friends, explain quickly how bad this bill is and tell them to contact their senators, too.

Congressional switchboard: (202) 224-3121

or use Resist.bot or 5Calls.

Call even if your senator(s) are Democrats or Independents, because they need to know how you feel, they need to know backsliding isn't acceptable. Don't trust they will do the right thing without hearing from you (I'm looking at Pennsylvanians especially given Sen. Fetterman's increasing unreliability).

~ ~ ~

UPDATE – 2:09 PM ET 01-JUL-2025 –

The POS BFB passed with JD Vance casting the tie breaking vote.

Via Associated Press:

Senate Republicans hauled President Donald Trump's big tax breaks and spending cuts bill to passage Tuesday on the narrowest of votes, pushing past opposition from Democrats and their own GOP ranks after a turbulent overnight session.

Vice President JD Vance broke a 50-50 tie to push it over the top. The three Republicans opposing the bill were Sens. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

The GOP owns this POS. It's on them, they have committed to hurting this country.

Furthermore, they have completely abandoned any pretense of being the party of fiscal responsibility having voted to add \$3.3 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

**** Do not let this lead you to despair. Let it anger you, and let that righteous anger motivate you to action.****

Continue to call your members of Congress – excoriate them if they voted for this POS BFB, thank them for rejecting it if they didn't.

Find out when your members of Congress will be home over this break and whether they are having in-district sessions. Be there in person to communicate with them.

Our next major concerns should be how to care for others who will be directly damaged by this GOP bullshit, and how to protect the elections ahead.

Take the holiday break to rest up and ready yourself for the next phase.