

# ‘Morally Bankrupt’: After Tax Cuts for Richest, House GOP Unveils \$5.4 Trillion Attack on Nation’s Safety Net



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wis.). Image Credit: Gage Skidmore on Flickr

[By Jake Johnson, staff writer](#) | [Common Dreams](#)

With the nation’s attention rightly fixated on President Donald Trump’s [horrific treatment of immigrant children](#), House Republicans on Tuesday quietly unveiled their 2019 [budget proposal](#) that calls for \$537 billion in cuts to Medicare, \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, and four billion in cuts to Social Security over the next decade in an effort to pay for their deficit-exploding tax cuts for the wealthy.

“It’s morally bankrupt, patently absurd, and grossly un-

American,” the advocacy group Patriotic Millionaires [said](#) of the GOP’s budget proposal, which calls for [\\$5.4 trillion](#) in spending cuts from major domestic programs.

*This budget is out of touch and cruel to the most vulnerable Americans [#FY19Budgethttps://t.co/lN1X6zuLeZ](#)*

*– Patriotic Millionaires (@PatrioticMills) [June 19, 2018](#)*

Robert Greenstein, president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), argued in a [statement](#) that the Republican proposal demonstrates clearly shows the “House majority’s fiscal priorities haven’t changed.”

“It’s easy to become numb to the harshness of these budgets and to brush aside their policy implications based on the assumption (likely correct) that few, if any, of these policies will be enacted this year,” Greenstein said. “But this budget reflects where many congressional leaders—and the president—would like to take the country if they get the opportunity to enact these measures in the years ahead. Rather than help more families have a shot at the American dream, it asks the most from those who have the least, and it would leave our nation less prepared for the economic and other challenges that lie ahead.”

Progressives have been [warning for months](#) about the GOP’s plan to axe crucial safety net programs following the passage of its deeply unpopular \$1.5 trillion tax bill, which has sparked a [boom of corporate stock buybacks](#) while doing little to nothing for most American workers.

“Each GOP budget is more fraudulent than the last,” Seth Hanlon, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, [wrote](#) on Tuesday. “We know what they stand for: tax cuts paid for with healthcare cuts.”

In addition to proposing devastating safety net cuts, the

House GOP budget also calls for partial privatization of Medicare and the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, a move that would throw tens of millions off their health insurance.

“The 2019 Republican budget scraps any sense of responsibility to the American people and any obligation to being honest,” Rep. John Yarmuth (D-Ky.), the ranking member on the House Budget committee, said in a [statement](#) on Tuesday. “Its repeal of the Affordable Care Act and extreme cuts to healthcare, retirement security, anti-poverty programs, education, infrastructure, and other critical investments are real and will inflict serious harm on American families.”

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