



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Markup Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Budget Reconciliation Markup

April 29, 2025

We are here today because President Trump has one goal — to pass massive tax cuts and giveaways for billionaires on the backs of hardworking Americans. Unfortunately, Congressional Republicans are hell-bent on helping him do it.

The extreme Trump legislative agenda provides \$7 TRILLION in giveaways to billionaires and big corporations while cutting \$880 BILLION from Medicaid, hurting tens of millions of Americans, and taking food from veterans, seniors, and kids. It would also blow a \$14 TRILLION hole in the national debt.

Americans know the President's schemes don't benefit anyone but himself and his cronies. Trump's reconciliation bill is a "big, beautiful bill" for his billionaire buddies like Elon Musk, but a terrible deal for everyone else.

This disastrous Republican plan puts Americans' healthcare in jeopardy. Mr. Chairman, in your congressional district alone, nearly 140,000 of your constituents receiving Medicaid are at risk of losing their healthcare, including over 82,000 children and 14,000 seniors.

That's why so many Republican members spent the recent congressional recess telling their constituents they'd fight to defend against cuts to the very programs their party's budget resolution would decimate. Fortunately, the American people aren't buying Republicans' lies.

Three polls released this past Sunday show Trump's approval rating at a 70-year low for any President in his first 100 days in office. These pitiful approval ratings are of the President's own making.

Americans witnessed Trump crash our economy in real time. They've watched him break promises about lowering prices. And now Republicans want to take healthcare and food from kids and seniors to help the likes of Elon Musk.

Democrats refuse to be complicit in this Republican scheme.

The President's plummeting poll numbers and the tanking economy make supporting this reconciliation package more complicated for my friends on the other side of the aisle.

That's why House Republican leadership is putting lipstick on this pig of a reconciliation package by pretending it's about border security. But the border measure we are considering today is nothing more than window dressing designed to help moderate Republicans tolerate cruel cuts to Medicaid and distract Americans from the fact that Trump is taking a chainsaw to Federal services they rely on.

This reconciliation package isn't about securing the border, and it never has been. If Republicans were serious about border security, they would have taken up the bipartisan border package last year.

But they were too busy doing Trump's bidding then, and they're too busy doing Trump's bidding now.

If they were serious about border security, they'd have had the Secretary of Homeland Security testify before the Committee to make the case for more funding for the Department. But while Secretary Noem travels the world for countless photo ops, she hasn't appeared before the Department's committee of jurisdiction despite repeated requests from Committee Democrats. And yet, Republicans are ready to turn over tens of billions in taxpayer dollars to her.

At the end of the day, reconciliation is about lining billionaires' pockets on the backs of ordinary Americans.

I know it's hard to defend the indefensible, but at some point, my colleagues on the other side will have to face the music.

The fact is, most Republicans voted to start this reconciliation process when all they knew about it were "concepts of a plan." As their constituents have learned more about it and watched every Trump administration priority implode, publicly defending reconciliation or anything associated with the President has become uncomfortable.

But reconciliation won't distract Americans from the fact that their grocery bills are higher, their bank account balances are lower, and there isn't a Republican Congress or anyone in the White House who cares.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this Republican reconciliation scheme.

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