

Dear Members of Congress,

I am writing on behalf of the millions of most vulnerable Americans who rely on Medicaid, Medicare and VA benefits to survive. Systems are in place that include annual evaluations with 'laying eyes' on the recipient and interviewing to determine what services are currently needed and what they qualify for. This eliminates waste within these programs. Funeral homes have protocols that includes notifying SSA of the death, which starts a chain reaction to terminate monthly benefits paid out to the deceased and terminating any federally-funded services immediately.

While I may support an annual evaluation of each person's needs, and an effort to reduce wasteful or fraudulent receipt of benefits, I do NOT support a general slashing of benefits without justification on each person's individual basis. The current plans to reduce millions of dollars of benefits in a lump-sum without consideration of each individual's needs is life-threatening to millions of innocent people.

Please step back and look at the bigger picture. If our budget reflects ANY threat to our most vulnerable citizens, then perhaps we should be evaluating the current tax laws and determining if the services our government provides is adequately funded. Since 2009, inflation has increased 36%. The top 1% of the wealth in this country got significantly richer with tax loopholes, while minimum wage remained stagnant since 2009. There is something VERY WRONG when we see documented proof that our own POTUS has used these tax loopholes to avoid paying taxes that support these very critical services. The Reagan Administration's "trickle-down" economics served only the wealthiest. It did not work and the result is where we are today – wanting to punish our most vulnerable citizens while the wealthiest keep getting richer without tax accountability.

There is a recognized mental illness in which the person collects and keeps everything they can until they have so much they can't even enjoy it all. They are labeled "hoarders." Our society finds this practice unacceptable and dangerous. Why are we so accepting of those who hoard our most necessary resources that impact the lives of all our citizens? As Warren Buffet has said repeatedly, the highest earners – the top tier of net worth in this country – could START paying a reasonable amount of taxes and never actually personally be affected financially in the way Working Class America will feel it.

The Working Class make hard decisions when facing tax increase, such as whether they can afford to buy their diabetes medication or replace a very old and broken down used car to get to work every day. It can mean a family must go to a Food Bank to be able to feed their children for the next few months. For the wealthiest, paying their fair share of taxes is not going to make them wonder if they can pay the mortgage this month or if they can buy a new pair of shoes for their son, whose only pair has holes in them. The wealthiest never have to worry about if they can afford to take their insulin as prescribed or take less so they can stretch out getting it refilled so they can afford to pay for it.

As your constituent, I feel I must remind you that you represent ME. You work for ME. You were hired by me to be MY voice. So, be my voice. The US government is supposed to be service-driven for the benefit of its citizens. It should not be run like a for-profit business. Change is necessary but go get it from the right end of the resources that are available. Make tax laws fair with no legal loop-holes to steal from our most vulnerable. Please let the most vulnerable citizens know they can rest easy and know that the US Government isn't going to endanger their lives by taking away what they need to survive.

A tax-paying American citizen,

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Signature

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Date