

## QUOTABLE

**“Public relief is a sacred debt. Society owes maintenance to unfortunate citizens.”**

*Paragraph 21 of the 1793 Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen—the ultimate statement of the ideals of the French Revolution.*

**“The car wreck that was the 2016 election had many drivers.** Journalists were not alone in the car, but their fingerprints were all over the wheel.” Thomas E. Patterson, [News Coverage of the 2016 General Election: How the Press Failed the Voters](#).

**“Mercy.** It is about how we care for the least among us -- not how we treat the powerful. It calls on us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the sick. It is kindness. It is grace.

“There is no mercy in a system that makes health care a luxury. There is no mercy in a country that turns its back on those that are most in need of protection: the elderly, the poor, the sick, and the suffering.

“There is no mercy in a cold shoulder to the mentally ill.

“There is no mercy in a policy that takes for granted the sweat, the tears, and the sacrifice that working Americans shed every day so that they might care for their families' basic needs: food, shelter, health, and hope for tomorrow.

“So when Speaker Ryan called his repeal bill ‘an act of mercy’ last week, I knew I had to speak out.

“It is an act of malice.

“We, as Americans, are better than this. Every working family deserves better than this. And when millions of people have their access to health care put on the chopping block, we have to stand up to this.”

*Joe Kennedy III*