

Butchers

Michael K. Cantwell

The New York Times recently reported on a lunch meeting for Republican Senators held at a Chick-Fil-A during which Colorado Senator Cory Gardner warned that the Senate's failure to repeal the ACA was drastically affecting campaign fundraising.

Iowa Senator Charles E. Grassley, who has been deeply involved in healthcare policy, told reporters at home that "he could count 10 reasons the new health proposal should not reach the floor, but that Republicans needed to press ahead regardless." Why? Because they'd promised for years to repeal the ACA and, as Senator Pat Roberts admitted, "If we do nothing, it has a tremendous impact on the 2018 elections, and whether or not Republicans still maintain control and we have the gavel."

Think about that. Graham-Cassidy is another crap bill that will deprive millions of Americans of health insurance, effectively condemning tens of thousands of them to untimely deaths every year, and Republicans know it. And yet Republicans must get behind the bill because their donors want some action. No action, no money. No money, no majority.

What do you call someone who would sacrifice tens of thousands of innocent lives simply to stay in power? A thug? A butcher? A Republican? I don't know, but it's worth asking our own Little Marco what he thinks. I try to either speak to his office or leave messages daily (202-224-3041; 305-418-8553; 561-775-3360), but I've yet to receive a satisfactory answer.