

# **GREED KILLS**

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Unfortunately, and all too often, greed kills the needy and leaves the greedy laughing all the way to the bank. Exhibit 1 is the Republicans' deficit-busting hijacking of the American people known under the Orwellian title "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act."

The bill will kill the needy by causing them to plunge through a shredded safety net. How? By blowing what is estimated to be as much as a \$1.5-trillion hole in the deficit, it will inevitably lead to demands to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, programs on which most Americans – and especially the needy – depend, often for their very lives.

In addition, the bill eliminates the Individual Mandate, an essential leg on which the Affordable Care Act depends in order to lower the cost of health insurance. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that insurance costs will skyrocket in 2019, leading four million Americans to lose their health insurance. That alone will cause thousands of Americans to die prematurely and unnecessarily every year. And that doesn't include the death and devastation that will result from greed-motivated Republican climate denial.

It is said that quantitative changes suddenly become qualitative changes; for example, water grows colder and colder and colder, and suddenly it's ice. The day grows darker and darker, and suddenly it's night. Applying this dictum, it is fair to ask when the colossal greed of the obscenely rich, legalized by Republican legislation, can be fairly characterized as a criminal act.

Perhaps it is not murder, but surely it is reckless indifference to human life. And perhaps we can't frog march the miscreants out of Congress and put them on trial for crimes against humanity, but surely we need to vote them all out . . . and consign the Greedy Old Party to the dustbin of history.