

Nothing to Brag About

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While Republicans are celebrating the passage of the tax bill much desired by their donors, the majority of Americans understand that there is nothing to celebrate.

It's easy to see why. The bill gives the vast majority of the benefits to the very, very wealthy and to the big corporations, and it will add nearly \$1.5 trillion to the deficit. (Back when Obama was putting forth a stimulus package to save America from a Great Depression II, all we heard about from Republicans was how deficits are bad.)

It's worth noting that the modest tax cuts to the middle class will end in six years, while the immodest cuts to the wealthy are permanent. In fact, the majority of Americans making \$75,000 will actually be paying more taxes by 2027. This tax bill will hit hardest those in rural areas who voted for Trump. They were conned. This is revenue that is lost to the country. It is the money we need to govern with fairness to all.

The Republicans claim that the tax bill will "pay for itself" because the economy will be stimulated. This didn't happen with the Reagan or the Bush tax cuts, each of which helped explode the deficit. Of course that doesn't bother Republicans, and in fact it's part of their plan. They'll use the deficit to claim that we need to cut social spending.

Republicans such as our own Marco Rubio have openly said that they will have to cut Medicare and Medicaid. Senator Rubio seemed undisturbed at that possibility. It is worth considering, that according to an editorial in the New York Times, there is one sacred cow they will not cut. That is the Pentagon. To quote what they said, "...giving the Pentagon another huge increase defies common sense. The Pentagon already wastes about one in five of the taxpayer dollars it receives, according to a Pentagon-commissioned study." So the Republicans will cut health care. They will cut education. They will cut funds for the disabled and the elderly in nursing homes. They will cut things like food stamps, but they will not cut the military.

So here we are, you and I, watching the inequality grow and all the pain that comes with it. No, Mr. Trump, America will not be great again, not with you as president, nor with the bunch of lackeys, calling themselves Republicans, beholden to their donors. Greatness comes with fairness and attention to the general good. It comes with good government that all could respect and admire, and maybe even trust.