

**No One Is Coming for Your Guns,
But Republicans Have Already Come for Your Health Care**

Michael K. Cantwell

One can count on Republicans to be sympathetic and “prayerful” after yet another senseless slaughter made possible by our failure as a nation to reasonably regulate gun sales.

But once the conversation turns from meaningless condolences to preventing future tragedies, the tone shifts. Then Republicans and their paymasters at the NRA pull out the oldest, ugliest, and most effective weapons in their arsenal, demonizing their opponents and attempting to terrify the public. “Be afraid, be very afraid. The Socialist/Democratic/Liberal cabal is coming to take away the guns you are guaranteed under the Second Amendment.” As the articles on pages 4-6 make amply clear, this is vile nonsense:

No one is coming for your guns, but Republicans have already come for your healthcare. According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation, the Orwellian-titled “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” will increase the number of uninsured by 4 million in 2019, rising to 13 million by 2027. In addition, Paul Ryan and our own little Marco Rubio have already announced plans to seek cuts in Medicare and Medicaid to pay for the \$1.5 trillion hole they blew in the budget to reward their wealthy donors. This will not only affect poor Americans but the elderly in nursing homes and Baby Boomers, a cohort that shamefully voted for Trump.

Add to that the fact that taxpayers with incomes under \$75,000 will actually experience a tax *increase*, making health insurance that much more unaffordable for tens of millions of Americans. In turn that will result in tens of thousands of premature and preventable deaths.

So don’t worry about the bogeyman coming to take your guns. Worry about the fact that Republicans have come for your lives.