

## **Republicans Declare War on the Middle Class**

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Republicans are marketing the tax “reform” passed in December as a middle class tax cut. Shockingly, Democrats are silent, although they could and should be referring to it using the title of this article.

For starters, the tax cuts to billionaires and multi-national corporations are permanent while those for the middle class will expire in 2025. As a result, Americans earning under \$75,000 will actually see their taxes increase by 2027, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation. By 2027, 82.8% of the total cut will go to the top 1% of taxpayers and 59.8% will go to the top 0.1%.

But the most odious and insidious part of the bill is the \$1.5 trillion hole it blows in the budget. This is no accident, no unintended by-product of the Great American Stickup. Rather, it is what Republicans do whenever one is in the White House - they explode the deficit by cutting taxes for the wealthiest Americans. After a Democrat is elected they don't shut up about the deficit, claiming that we can't afford the money spent on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

This time around, Republicans haven't even waited for the inevitable Democrat in the White House to begin warning that social spending is on the chopping block. And you can be sure that they won't shut up about it after 2020 when there IS a Democrat in the White House.

Here's the takeaway. The Republicans think their tax bill is the key to holding Congress in November, and they are right. And they will be right, unless we locally and Democrats nationally begin calling this tax bill for what it is - the nail in the coffin of the American middle class.