



**Senator Peter Welch  
Remarks as Delivered  
on Republicans' Attacks on Medicaid  
February 19, 2025**

I'll answer those questions: the answer is yes, they want to stiff our veterans. Yes, they want to evict the grandmother from the nursing home.

It's really astonishing what's happened in this last month. The President has gone on a lawless rampage. He's totally disregarding the authority of Congress on the budget. Regrettably, our Republican colleagues are relinquishing their authority and responsibility as an independent branch of government. The President is saying things like, "Ukraine started the war."

When I talk to Vermonters, their heads are spinning. There's no stable ground underneath them, and they wonder what he's up to. And what he is up to is trying to achieve the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth priority of his administration: cutting taxes for billionaires.

Literally, that's what he's doing. The math doesn't add up, and the only way he's going to be able to do it is go after Medicaid, and he's all in on doing that. And it's really an appalling agenda.

Now, when you think back about his address at the inaugural, I didn't hear anything about affordability. I didn't hear anything about working families trying to deal with child care. I didn't hear anything about the cost of housing, which in every one of our states is brutal. I didn't hear anything about affordability—nothing.

And then he gets into office, supposedly "loving Medicaid," supposedly being a tribute of working folks who are having trouble at the end of the month paying their bills, and the number one agenda item for him is cutting taxes for billionaires, the families be damned.

These Medicaid cuts are brutal on each one of our states. But in Vermont, we've got about 20-25% of our families who get Medicaid—and it's kids, you know, why not stiff them? And it's a lot of older folks who are in the nursing homes. Two out of the three beds we have in Vermont are Medicaid supported.

So, this is going to be trauma. Trauma for the families directly affected. Trauma for the state budgets, where each of us has legislatures that are trying to keep things together in the onslaught of the Trump attacks.

So, bottom line here: the agenda is clear. It is really tax cuts for billionaires and the kind of “love” that President Trump has for Medicaid is apparently a love that doesn't include keeping that grandmother in her nursing home. It's the kind of love that says to an eight- year-old who has severe illnesses, ‘Hey, kid, you are on your own,’ and it will all work out with my “big, beautiful” tax cut bill.

We are here to say no. We are going to fight every way that we can to stop this travesty from occurring.

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