



**INDEPENDENT
JOURNAL REVIEW**

Hillary Calls GOP 'the Death Party' After Harvard Claims AHCA Would Cause Thousands of Deaths

Mike Miller

June 24, 2017

Democrats have long resorted to hyperbole in their opposition to Republican policies.

From the 2012 attack ad showing a Paul Ryan look-alike pushing a wheelchair-bound granny off a cliff to Nancy Pelosi's claim that Republicans want to “take food from the mouths of children,” hyperbolic rhetoric has been part of the Democratic strategy.

So, it comes as no surprise that Hillary Clinton tweeted — based on a retweet from a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress — that the GOP will become “the death party” if it passed the American Health Care Act: “Forget death panels. If Republicans pass this bill, they're the death party.”

In the tweet, Topher Spiro claims thousands of people will die if Obamacare is repealed and the GOP healthcare bill becomes the law of the land: “NEW: From us and Harvard researchers: the Senate bill could result in 18,000 to 28,000 deaths in 2026.”

In an article citing both its own research and that of Harvard researchers, Center for American Progress claimed that more than 200 thousand people would die from 2018 to 2026 under the House version of the AHCA:

Deaths due to reductions in health coverage under House-passed version of the AHCA

National estimates of additional deaths each year relative to the ACA

Year	Coverage reduction (in millions of people)	Additional deaths
2018	14	16,900
2019	16	19,300
2020	19	22,900
2021	21	25,300
2022	21	25,300
2023	21	25,300
2024	22	26,500
2025	23	27,700
2026	23	27,700
Total, 2018–2026		216,900

Sources: Authors' calculations based on the following sources: Congressional Budget Office, "H.R. 1628, American Health Care Act of 2017" (2017), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52752>; Benjamin D. Sommers, Sharon K. Long, and Katherine Baicker, "Changes in Mortality After Massachusetts Health Care Reform: A Quasi-experimental Study," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, May 6, 2014, available at <http://annals.org/aim/article/1867050/changes-mortality-after-massachusetts-health-care-reform-quasi-experimental-study>.



Center for American Progress

On Thursday, Former President Barack Obama used the Senate version of the AHCA to launch a broadside against Republican efforts to repeal his “signature piece of legislation” in a lengthy Facebook post:

Ironically, Obama called the AHCA a “massive transfer of wealth”:

"The Senate bill, unveiled today, is not a health care bill, it's a massive transfer of wealth from middle-class and poor families to the richest people in America."

Critics, including the Cato Institute, charged that “Obamacare, at its root, is about wealth redistribution.”

Obama also called the Senate bill “mean”:

"Simply put, if there's a chance you might get sick, get old, or start a family – this bill will do you harm."

And small tweaks over the course of the next couple weeks, under the guise of making these bills easier to stomach, cannot change the fundamental meanness at the core of this legislation."

Hillary agreed.

Senate Democrats took to the floor on Monday night for a five-hour protest against their Republican colleagues, charging the bill was being drafted “in secret.”

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said the process should be “open for the American people to see,” apparently forgetting the immortal words of Nancy Pelosi, who in 2010 said of Obamacare: “We have to pass the bill so that you can see what is in it.”