

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOYCE BEATTY
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR OHIO'S 3RD DISTRICT
BEFORE THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT #280
MAY 21, 2025**

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Thank you, Chair Foxx, Ranking Member McGovern, and members of the Rules Committee.

I urge you to make in order my amendment—Amendment Number 280. This amendment is simple: it would stop the implementation of the reconciliation bill's massive tax cuts for the wealthy if the bill's other provisions result in a reduction in funding for Medicaid, Social Security, or SNAP.

Let me put it plainly: it says no tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans if you cut the programs that everyday American families, seniors, and others rely on.

If you believe that is true, then you should have no problem supporting my amendment—which would make no changes if the bill does not cut Medicaid or food assistance.

We are here to serve our constituents—and I know I am not the only one who has received thousands of letters and calls demanding that Congress protect health care, food assistance, and other critical programs. Constituents are saying, "*What are we doing?*"

Well, I'm telling you: this panel shows you what Democrats are doing. We are fighting.

And despite what the title of the Republican budget reconciliation bill would have you believe, it is not "*One Big Beautiful Bill.*" It's a big billionaire bankroll bill. And it is one of the biggest and most reckless and heartless attacks on American families.

It would rip away health care from almost 14 million Americans—and food assistance from 11 million children. And the worst part is, none of this is necessary. It is only being done to bankroll a billionaire's tax cut.

That is why I am offering this amendment.

I am offering this amendment for the 2.4 million Ohioans who rely on Medicaid to access critical health care services—like blood pressure checks, diabetes screenings, mammograms, mental health services, and other life-saving care.

I am offering this amendment for the millions of women across the country who rely on Medicaid to cover the birth of their child—and to keep them and their babies healthy before and after birth.

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I am offering this amendment for the more than 42 million Americans who rely on federal food assistance, and who might not eat tomorrow.

I am offering this amendment for Arnishia—an Ohioan, a mother of two, and a recent cancer survivor who relies on Medicaid. She's scheduled for surgery that Medicaid makes affordable. Her family also depends on SNAP to put healthy food on the table. Losing these benefits would be devastating.

In short, I am offering this amendment for Americans who are struggling to get by—and who are counting on us, Democrats and Republicans, to lower their costs and improve their lives, not enrich billionaires.

Unfortunately, the families I'm fighting for won't benefit from the tax cuts in this package. The top 0.1 percent—billionaires—will receive an average tax break of \$278,000 per year. That's \$762 per day—almost twice the *weekly* salary of someone making minimum wage in Ohio.

It is clear that this bill is an attempt to sell out hardworking American families who are just trying to make ends meet—to benefit the very few. This bill would harm our constituents—Democrats' constituents, Republicans' constituents.

Republicans have claimed this bill does not cut benefits. And if you believe that is true, then you should have no problem supporting my amendment—which would make no changes if the bill does not cut Medicaid or food assistance.

So, I urge you to make this amendment in order.

And Madam Chair, I would like to enter into the record this article on the GOP's budget plan—which makes it hard to conceal its lies about Medicaid and SNAP.

Lastly, let me just say to the American people: we have been here all night, and we're here because of you.

They scheduled this hearing from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., and here we are—now in the first panel at 11:45 a.m. Is this the way our country should run? Is this what you expect from your leaders?

Let me answer that for you: the answer is no. And that's why we are here today.

Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield back.