

APRIL RECESS TOOLKIT

Saturday, April 12, through Sunday, April 27: U.S. Congressional recess, - our opportunity to let representatives know who they work for. With Republicans plotting to gut Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for the rich, and with Social Security offices and phone support already being slashed, the stakes are high — and both your U.S. Senators AND Representative are back home.

Recess is when Members of Congress go back home to host town halls, meet with constituents, and be responsive to the people who elected them (MAGA Republicans seem to always forget this part). **It is also when Members of congress think they can avoid public scrutiny—especially Republicans who want to DO(D)GE tough questions about their complicity in Trump and Musk’s coup.**

Republicans use this time to meet with lobbyists and donors while hoping their constituents stay silent. **Every Republican must feel** the heat for voting to cut Medicaid, SNAP, and other vital programs to fund massive tax giveaways to billionaires.

Republicans in Congress are selling us out to help billionaires like Elon Musk get even richer. They’re using [budget reconciliation](#)—a wonky process that would allow them to pass this legislation with only Republican votes—to ram through their tax scam. Here’s what’s in the bill:

- **Over \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, nutrition assistance like SNAP, and other vital programs.** Millions of Americans will lose their health insurance, children in need will go without school meals, and working families will face higher costs for housing, healthcare, and groceries.
- **Massive handouts for billionaires. The Republican budget scam gives trillions of dollars in tax cuts to the ultrawealthy and big corporations.**

Bottom line: Republicans want to fleece the American people so billionaires can buy another private jet or luxury yacht. But they know their plan is unpopular. That’s why they’re using budget reconciliation, because they don’t have enough votes to pass it through normal procedures. But Donald Trump has demanded tax breaks for his rich friends, and so Republicans are falling over themselves to deliver for him.

And while all of this unfolds, Republicans in Congress are enabling Trump and Musk’s power grab. They think they can get away with it because people won’t fight back. That’s where we come in.

GOALS FOR HOLDING REPUBLICANS ACCOUNTABLE

- **Put Republicans on the spot**—force them to explain why they support a plan that not only gives billionaires huge handouts, but pays for those handouts by gutting Medicaid, SNAP, and other vital programs.

- **Publicize their plan**—make sure your community knows what's at stake if Republicans ram through their tax scam.
- **Expose the harm**—tie Republicans directly to the devastating impacts that these cuts will have on everyday people.
- **Make it impossible for them to ignore their constituents**—show up at their offices, events, and anywhere they try to hide. Remind them they work for you, not Trump, Musk, or any other billionaire.
- **Ensure they feel the pressure back in Washington**—so they know they'll be held accountable at home if they vote for this tax scam.

A Note On Social Security and Medicare:

Republicans are most certainly threatening Social Security and Medicare. They've put Social Security at risk by gutting the Social Security Administration and firing thousands of employees that ensured that seniors got their benefits. And they're threatening to completely privatize Medicare, jeopardizing access to quality health care for over 65 million Americans. But these threats aren't happening via budget reconciliation. In fact, changes to Social Security aren't allowed under the rules of reconciliation.

RECOMMENDED TACTICS for Stop the Cuts: April Recess

If the last recess was about getting our members of congress on the record, this recess is about visibility. MAGA thrives on sowing fear, chaos, and lies to evade accountability and to try to silence and intimidate people fighting for our dememder of congressracy. We need to let Trump, Musk, our communities, and the world know that we are here, we are paying attention, and we're not going anywhere, anytime soon, without a fight. We're stronger when we stand together.

Organize rallies with clear signage that lets casual passersby know what it is about. We want to make sure we're capturing the attention of even those who are just driving by (and maybe convincing them to join in). People should be able to share pictures of the event and anyone who sees those pictures should immediately understand what's at stake. Big signs and big numbers are great ways to force people to pay attention. Once we have their attention, we want to make sure our message is clear.

For Republican Members of congress: We need to hold them accountable for bowing down to Trump, Musk, and their billionaire friends at the expense of the American people. They are the ones rolling out the red carpet. We need to let them know we see their actions, and we will not stand by. We must spotlight their refusal to fulfill their duty to the very people who elected them.

Our goal is to strengthen Democrats' resolve while continuing to toxify the billionaire-directed, Republican coup.

IDEAS FOR EFFECTIVE TACTICS

Your tactics will vary depending on your members of congress (do you have a Democrat member of congress who has been fighting for the people or do you have an apathetic Republican who is happy to slash Medicaid at the behest of Trump and Musk). Regardless of your representation, you'll want to employ tactics that catch the eye of people in your community and across the world.

These rallies should take place in highly visible and/or meaningful places (e.g. your Member of congress's district/state office, town square, city hall, or along a major thoroughfare). The more people we can get to pay attention (and join in), the harder it will be for Republicans to get away with slashing vital government programs like SNAP and Medicaid. Some ideas:

- **The People's Checkbook**

Concept: Create an *oversized check* made out to "Elon Musk and Donald Trump" for the amount of money being funneled to billionaires via GOP tax breaks. Include memos like "funded by cuts to Medicaid" or "signed by Rep. [Name]." Deliver to your Republican Member of congress's office or have a billionaire stand-in, like the Monopoly Man accept the check.

- This visual would remind people just how much money Trump is funneling to billionaires at the expense of the American people. **For an interactive version:** Create a blank check labeled "THE PEOPLE'S MONEY" and allow folks to write in what they actually would like that money to pay for instead of billionaire's yachts (e.g. schools, healthcare, clean air).

- **Eviction Notice**

Concept: Tape up giant "Eviction Notices" on your Member of congress's district office to symbolize what's happening to working people when vital government programs are slashed. *Note: Please make sure it's clear that these are fake and for satirical purposes. Do not forge real eviction notices.*

- Use props such as cardboard boxes labeled with "my medication," "my rent," "my kids' school," "the CFPB," etc. to represent what working Americans are not able to afford as billionaires cash in. **For an interactive version:** Create a visual running tally of what programs people in your community are most worried about Trump slashing like housing assistance, Medicaid, and SNAP.

- **Public Comment Pop-Up**

Concept: Set up a "public comment booth" on public property outside of your Member of congress's office (can be as simple as a podium, microphone, and "recording" sign). Let people share stories of what these cuts mean in their lives.

- Personal stories are some of the most compelling ways to drive change and break through assumptions. It's easy for people to argue against a mythological welfare queen (a racist trope), it's much harder to look your kind, hardworking neighbor in the face and tell them they don't deserve the assistance they clearly need. **Take it up a notch:** Ask people if they would be ok with you streaming their stories. Live stream to social media, or record videos to release in shorter snippets later. Make sure to comply with all state and local laws around recordings.
- **Option for people who may not be comfortable with public speaking:** Allow people to write down their stories and deliver those stories to the Member of congress's office at the end of the event.

- **Empty Chair Town Hall**

Concept: If your Member of congress refuses to hold a real town hall, hold one without them. Set up an empty chair labeled with their name or a cardboard cutout of them and have community members speak about the direct impact of Republican policies. Ask the questions you would if the Member of congress had shown up. **Make it visual:** Create milk cartons with their face labeled “MISSING” or a cardboard cutout of your Member of congress.

- **When possible,** invite a Democratic member of congress to join you in your district instead.

Note: Congressional ethics guidelines and other guardrails prevent Members of Congress from using their official office, staff, or resources to host their own town hall or similar event in a district other than their own. However, they may attend events in other districts hosted by Indivisible groups or other partners. If your Indivisible group would like to invite a member of congress, or any elected official, to attend your event, they must attend in their official or personal capacity. The member should not be invited in their campaign capacity.

Take these ideas and run with them. Use them, or come up with something creative on your own. **Remember that our goal is to be big, visible, and clear about our message.**

A core principle behind all Indivisible events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values.

A Note On Timing:

April recess coincides with several religious holidays across different faiths. Unlike our MAGA counterparts, we continue to be the party of common-sense decency and inclusion. So, please be mindful and respectful of these holidays when planning your events to ensure all members of your community have a chance to voice their opposition to Trump’s horrific plans.

Register your event on Mobilize so others in your area can join. You can also check if there’s already an event planned near you—more people means more power.
<https://www.mobilize.us/indivisible/c/stop-the-cuts-april-recess-/event/create/>