



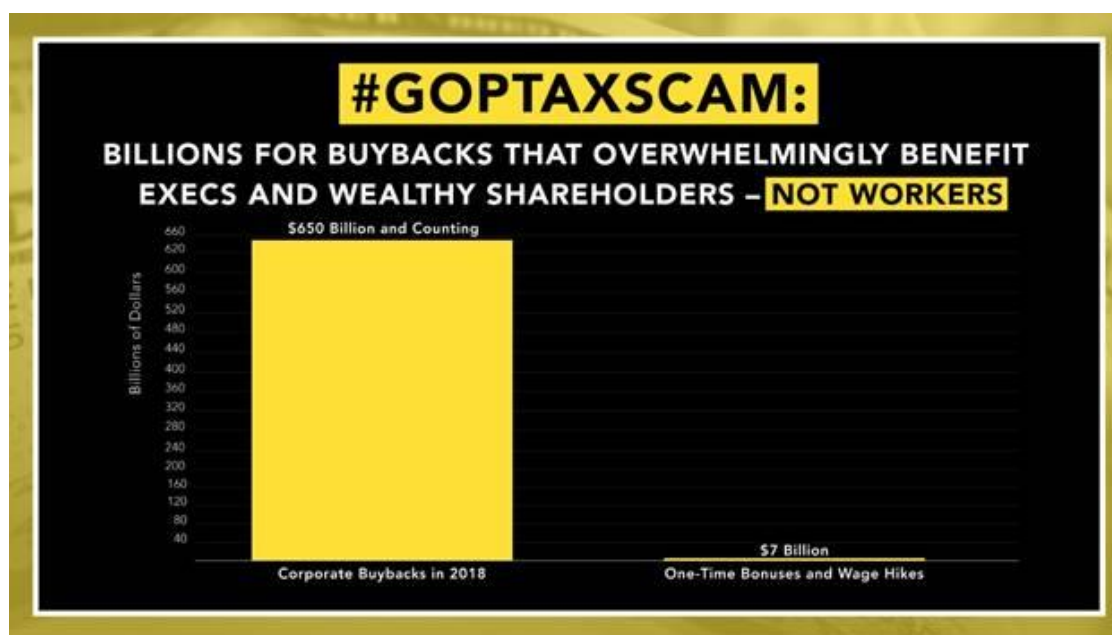
For Immediate Release

Date: July 18, 2018

Republicans Promised A Middle-Class Tax Cut. Instead, American Families Are Making Less And Paying More For Their Health Care, While Corporate Executives Feast With More Than \$650 Billion In Stock Buybacks In 2018.

American families are paying more for their health care because of the [Trump administration's sabotage](#) of our nation's [healthcare system](#). And after President Trump and Republicans in Congress [promised](#) families a \$4,000 raise, Americans have instead seen their real wages [fall](#). As the Department of Labor recently [reported](#), "for production and nonsupervisory employees, **real average hourly earnings decreased** 0.2 percent over the 12-month period ending in June 2018." To make matters worse, while families pay more for care and workers see their real earnings decrease, corporate executives and wealthy shareholders are cashing in from the GOP Tax Scam.

In 2018 alone, corporations have already announced more than \$650 billion in corporate stock buybacks, which overwhelmingly benefit corporate executives and wealthy shareholders. As the Chief US Economist for S&P [said](#), "stock buybacks usually go to high earners, and high earners usually save rather than spend."



WHILE CORPORATE EXECUTIVES CASH IN WITH BILLIONS IN STOCK BUYBACKS, AMERICAN WORKERS HAVE BEEN LEFT BEHIND.

CBS MoneyWatch: Worker wages drop while companies spend billions to boost stocks. “Six months after the Tax Cut and Jobs Act became law, there's still little evidence that the average job holder is feeling the benefit. Worker pay in the second quarter dropped nearly one percent below its first-quarter level, according to the PayScale Index, one measure of worker pay. When accounting for inflation, the drop is even steeper. Year-over-year, rising prices have eaten up still-modest pay gains for many workers, with the result that real wages fell 1.4 percent from the prior year, according to PayScale. The drop was broad, with 80 percent of industries and two-thirds of metro areas affected. ‘Now, economic confidence has been good, we're in a strong economy, GDP is growing, but the question has been, where's the paycheck?’ said Katie Bardaro, vice president of data analytics at PayScale.” [CBS News, [7/11/18](#)]

Washington Post: Trump keeps hyping economic numbers that show only mediocre change. “As for wages, they're only increasing at a pace that matches inflation, meaning that the spending power of people's salaries hasn't moved. Since June 2017, the relative spending power of hourly earnings actually dropped. That's not what Trump promised.” [Washington Post, [7/18/18](#)]

NY Times: Paychecks Lag as Profits Soar, and Prices Erode Wage Gains. “Corporate profits have rarely swept up a bigger share of the nation's wealth, and workers have rarely shared a smaller one. ... Hourly earnings have moved forward at a crawl, with higher prices giving workers less buying power than they had last summer. Last-minute scheduling, no-poaching and noncompete clauses, and the use of independent contractors are popular tactics that put workers at a disadvantage. Threats to move operations overseas, where labor is cheaper, continue to loom. And in the background, the nation's central bankers stand poised to raise interest rates and deliberately rein in growth if wages climb too rapidly. Workers, understandably, are asking whether they are getting a raw deal.” [NY Times, [7/13/18](#)]

CNN Money: CEOs Are Dumping Stock In Their Companies. Here's What That Means. “Companies have announced them this year at a rate of more than \$5 billion a day. The buyback boom has been viewed by investors as a sign of confidence among CEOs. Yet with their own money, executives are quietly taking a much different approach: They're cashing out. Insiders dumped \$8.4 billion of their shares in May and \$9.2 billion in June, according to an analysis of regulatory filings by TrimTabs Investment Research. That's the biggest two-month period of insider selling in a year. ‘They're buying back from the front door, and shoveling shares out the back door,’ said John Mousseau, president of CEO of Cumberland Advisors, an investment firm that manages more than \$3 billion. ‘It would be like going on TV to tell everyone what stocks we like, and then selling them,’ he said. ... ‘Large US companies have become cash machines for the top insiders who run them,’ said David Santschi, director of liquidity research at TrimTabs.” [CNN Money, [7/17/18](#)]

Washington Post: The Republican Tax Bill's Promises Of Higher Wages And More Jobs Haven't Materialized. “Shortly before Christmas last year, President Trump announced that Republicans in Congress had finalized their proposed overhaul to the tax system. ‘Congress has reached an agreement on tax legislation that will deliver more jobs, higher wages and massive tax relief for American families and for American companies,’ Trump said. He and his administration had been hammering on these benefits for weeks: Slashing corporate taxes would spur hiring and prompt businesses to increase wages and hiring. Sure, most of the benefit of the tax bill went to the wealthy and to corporations, but average Americans would see benefits, too — an increase of \$4,000 to the average family income. Those claims were treated with justifiable skepticism at the time. (The average-income claim, for example, includes the gains seen by enormously wealthy households, which skews everything upward.) But on Tuesday, we got a reminder that those promises haven't been realized in even small ways.” [Washington Post, [6/14/18](#)]

IN TOO MANY CASES, CORPORATIONS HAVE REWARDED CORPORATE EXECUTIVES THROUGH CORPORATE STOCK BUYBACKS AND LAID OFF AMERICAN WORKERS.

- Wells Fargo [announced](#) it will close 900 branches despite a \$3.4 billion boost from the Republican tax scam. Wells Fargo also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$22 billion corporate stock buyback program. President Trump [touted](#) Wells Fargo as a tax bill success story.
- Qualcomm [announced](#) plans to lay off 1,500 workers. Qualcomm also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$8.8 billion corporate stock buyback program.
- Kroger announced plans to [close 14 stores](#), impacting 1,500 workers. Kroger [also announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with more than \$2 billion in corporate stock buyback programs. Republicans [touted](#) Kroger as a tax bill success story.
- McKesson [announced](#) it will lay off [hundreds](#) of workers. McKesson also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$4 billion corporate stock buyback program.
- Devon Energy [announced](#) plans to lay off nine percent of its workforce – about 300 workers. Devon Energy also announced it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$1 billion corporate stock buyback program.
- Kimberly-Clark [announced](#) plans to cut up to 5,500 jobs. Kimberly-Clark also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with \$700-\$900 million in corporate stock buybacks in 2018.
- CSX announced plans to lay off [thousands of workers](#). CSX also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$3.5 billion increase in their corporate stock buyback program.
- Harley-Davidson is closing a Kansas City motorcycle assembly plant, resulting in [800 workers losing jobs](#). Harley Davidson also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$696 million corporate stock buyback program. Speaker Ryan [touted](#) Harley-Davidson when selling the tax bill.
- Hess Corporation [announced](#) they will lay off hundreds of workers. Hess Corporation also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$1 billion corporate stock buyback program.
- Cardinal Health announced it will [lay off 100 workers](#). Cardinal Health also [announced](#) it will reward corporate executives and wealthy shareholders with a \$1 billion corporate stock buyback program.

Corporation	Share Buyback Amount Announced in 2018 (Billions)	Date
Apple	\$100	1-May
Cisco	\$25	14-Feb
Wells Fargo	\$24.5	28-Jun
Wells Fargo*	\$22.6	23-Jan
JPMorgan Chase	\$20.7	28-Jun
Bank of America	\$20.6	28-Jun
Citi	\$17.6	28-Jun
UnitedHealth Group*	\$17.6	6-Jun
Altaba*	\$15.6	7-Jun
Nike	\$15	28-Jun
PepsiCo	\$15	13-Feb
Broadcom	\$12	12-Apr
Oracle	\$12	1-Feb

<u>Walgreens</u>	\$10	28-Jun
<u>Micron</u>	\$10	21-May
<u>AbbVie</u>	\$10	15-Feb
<u>Amgen</u>	\$10	1-Feb
<u>Conoco Phillips</u>	\$9	12-Jul
<u>Facebook</u>	\$9	25-Apr
<u>Qualcomm</u>	\$8.8	9-May
<u>Alphabet (Google)</u>	\$8.6	1-Feb
<u>Adobe</u>	\$8	21-May
<u>Booking</u>	\$8	25-Apr
<u>T-Mobile</u>	\$7.5	1-May
<u>Visa</u>	\$7.5	1-Feb
<u>Applied Materials</u>	\$6	14-Feb
<u>Mondelēz International</u>	\$6	31-Jan
<u>eBay</u>	\$6	1-Feb
<u>Starbucks*</u>	\$6	26-Apr
<u>Goldman Sachs</u>	\$5	28-Jun
<u>Altaba</u>	\$5	23-Apr
<u>Marathon Petroleum</u>	\$5	30-Apr
<u>Celgene</u>	\$5	14-Feb
<u>Lowe's</u>	\$5	26-Jan
<u>Morgan Stanley</u>	\$4.7	28-Jun
<u>HP, Inc.</u>	\$4	20-Jun
<u>McKesson</u>	\$4	24-May
<u>NetApp, Inc.</u>	\$4	5-Apr
<u>CSX</u>	\$3.5	12-Feb
<u>American Express</u>	\$3.4	28-Jun
<u>Phillips 66</u>	\$3.3	14-Feb
<u>Devon Energy</u>	\$3	6-Jun
<u>Celgene</u>	\$3	24-May
<u>TIJ</u>	\$3	28-Feb
<u>Constellation Brands</u>	\$3	5-Jan
<u>Waters Corporation</u>	\$3	24-Apr
<u>Fifth Third Bancorp*</u>	\$2.8	27-Feb
<u>Franklin Resources*</u>	\$2.7	12-Apr
<u>Northern Trust*</u>	\$2.6	17-Jul
<u>Textron*</u>	\$2.6	18-Apr
<u>Newell Brands</u>	\$2.5	11-Jun
<u>Valero</u>	\$2.5	23-Jan
<u>BNY Mellon</u>	\$2.4	28-Jun
<u>Electronic Arts</u>	\$2.4	8-May
<u>Regions Financial</u>	\$2.03	28-Jun
Announced Buybacks \$2 Billion or Less	\$120.5	

TOTAL Corporate Buybacks Authorized in 2018	\$660 Billion	
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*Based on closing price on the day share buyback was announced.

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