

One Big “Beautiful” Bill

A July 4th Facebook Post by The Rev. Adam Hamilton

[This post is included today because many of his FB followers praised Pastor Hamilton's level-headed summation of what is included in the recently-enacted federal bill.]

Happy 4th of July!

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day.

Today the President will sign into law the One Big Beautiful Bill Act into law. I've been reading various analyses of the bill – I don't have time to read all 900+ pages. As with most things in politics, to its advocates it's awesome, to its detractors, it's terrible. *Is the sky the limit? Or is the sky falling?*

The truth seems to me to be somewhere in between.

Here's what I think I understand about the bill:

- The bill extends tax cuts from 2017 that were set to expire,
- reduces taxes for some seniors,
- temporarily reduces taxes on tips and overtime for many workers (through 2028),
- provides a slight increase in the child tax credit (\$200),
- the deduction for state and local taxes goes up, *while*
- top earners in America are projected to see their incomes increase, *and*
- businesses benefit from policies intended to encourage investment in capital expenses.

The bill offsets some of the costs of these tax cuts and benefits in large part by

- reducing Medicaid and food benefits to low-income people.

It does so by

- mandating that Medicaid benefit recipients, aside from the disabled and those with children under 14, be required to work (or volunteer, take classes, or receive job training) 80 hours a month in order to receive benefits.

The Bill would

- expand work requirements for those receiving SNAP benefits (our national food program for low income people) and requiring states to participate.

The bill could see

- about 10 million people lose insurance benefits that gained them under the Affordable Care Act.

[Also:]

- The hundreds of millions in Medicaid cuts could have negative repercussions on hospitals and health care providers.
- The bill eliminates tax credits and incentives for clean energy over the next couple of years.
- The bill increases the debt by several hundred billion per year over the next ten years.

There are myriad other policies in the bill that I am not aware of. My post is not intending to pass judgment on the bill Congress has passed into law. There are some parts of the bill that make sense to me. There are other parts I'm concerned about, particularly for its impact on difficult-to-employ people who will suffer under it and the cuts to food programs and health insurance. This impacts children in poverty and persons with disabilities