



Picture „[President Trump's First 100 Days: 18](#)“ by [The White House](#) is marked with [Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

The dirty side of Trump's Big Beautiful Bill

June 6, 2025 by [Thomas Oysmüller](#) 4.9 minutes reading time

Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill" promises tax cuts and conservative reforms. But it also hits Trump's new voter base: the working classes. The legislative package reveals the Republicans' political problems.

The duo Elon Musk and Donald Trump seem to be at odds - if you believe the current media drama. Whether this is true remains to be seen. The trigger is the legislative package that Trump

calls the "One Big Beautiful Bill", which regulates tax policy, social programs, immigration, border security and other issues.

Musk strictly rejects the package as it could increase US government spending and lead to "national bankruptcy". This can be countered: The US is not going broke because it prints its own money and holds the world's reserve currency. The USA does not function like a corporation.

This article is neither about the (real?) separation between Musk and Trump nor about fundamental economic issues, but about the content of the legislative package. Fatally little is said about this. The content shows how the Republican Party wants to position itself as the new party of the working class - and is failing to do so.

Here are excerpts from a recent article in the American "old social democratic" magazine [Compact](#):

The "One, Big, Beautiful Bill" contains many items that would make conservatives happy. It would eliminate Planned Parenthood, a longtime target of many advocates who oppose taxpayer support for the nation's largest abortion provider (and an increasingly important source of sex-change drugs). It would create a national school choice program that gives parents more options to find the right educational environment for their children. It expands tax credits for employers who want to offer child care benefits to their employees. Most importantly, it would increase the total value of the child tax credit by \$500, which would help middle- and higher-income parents afford the necessities of daily life, from diapers to child care. (However, lower-income parents, such as married families with a single earner earning less than the median income, will not enjoy the full value of the increased credit.)

But the bill in its current form jeopardizes the GOP's newfound claim to be the party of the working class. It would increase the federal budget deficit by \$2.4 trillion over ten years, largely because of the extension of tax cuts for higher-income individuals. This does not include spending cuts, most of which are focused on domestic programs that benefit working families.

In 2024, President Trump won a higher percentage of voters earning less than \$50,000 than those earning \$150,000 or more; yet the benefits of the "One, Big, Beautiful Bill" are concentrated in the upper income brackets. **Only 40 percent of Trump 2024 voters who do not have a college degree want to see welfare spending cut, compared to 50 percent of his voters with a bachelor's degree or higher.**

[...]

Take the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP, better known as food stamps, has traditionally been a program with bipartisan support - no one wants low-income families to not be able to put food on the table for their children. One in five households with children receive SNAP benefits averaging about \$187 per person per month. The question is whether SNAP can be reformed to encourage work without putting children at risk of going hungry.

The Republican bill throws an aggressive "yes" vote into the mix. Currently, access to SNAP benefits is tied to meeting certain work requirements, and that's a good thing. However, adults who are disabled or have children under the age of 18 living at home are exempt from these requirements. The "big, beautiful bill" would raise the standards for meeting work requirements and limit the exemption criteria to adults with children under the age of seven.

[...]

The bill also makes administrative changes that could result in approximately 3 million families being removed from the SNAP program, up to 4 million fewer students participating in free and reduced-price school meals, and 360,000 infants and toddlers not having access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). These estimates, like all projections, should be taken with a grain of salt, but they illustrate the enormous risks associated with safety net reform.

[...]

There are many provisions in the "big, beautiful bill" to like, but there are real imbalances in the way the budget cuts are constructed. Republicans who want to avoid losses in the midterm elections, let alone solidify gains among moderate-income voters, should keep this in mind. There is still time to shape the bill in a way that strengthens, rather than undermines, the party's ability to appeal to working-class voters.

The "Grand Old Party" is reinventing itself - but the "Big Beautiful Bill" shows how complicated this is. The libertarian camp around Musk would prefer to cut government spending to zero. Of course, this would certainly have advantages for many people, but many people in the working classes are dependent on social programs. And the majority of them voted for Trump. But the GOP remains a party that also has to satisfy the clientele of the wealthy, which is also reflected in the law.

Trump is struggling with contradictions within his party and electorate. These are increasingly rubbing against each other. One expression of this is his public break with Musk. Whether these contradictions can be reconciled, however, remains questionable.