(MI-08) Message #1 Backup

Junge said that Roe v. Wade gave women "made up rights" and that he opposes abortion "at all times." So, it's no surprise that he wants to overturn the will of Michigan voters and pass federal legislation that would ban abortion nationwide – even in the case of rape, incest, or when the health of the woman is at risk.

Junge Said That Roe V. Wade Gave Women "Made Up Rights" And That He Opposes Abortion "At All Times"

Junge Said Roe V. Wade Created "Made-Up Rights." JUNGE: "And let me say one other thing, because of course one of our biggest obstacles is that federal court decision which makes the reelection of President Trump, so that he can continue to appoint federal judges that will adhere to the Constitution instead of made-up rights like we see in Roe versus Wade." [Paul Junge, Howell Debate, 2/20/20] (VIDEO 0:54)

Junge: "I Am Pro-Life. I Support Life At All Times." JUNGE: "I am pro-life. I support life at all times." [Paul Junge, Howell Debate, <u>2/20/20</u>] (VIDEO)

So, It's No Surprise That He Wants To Overturn The Will Of Michigan Voters And Pass Federal Legislation That Would Ban Abortion Nationwide—Even In The Case Of Rape, Incest, Or When The Health Of The Woman Is At Risk.

Junge Opposed Exceptions For Rape And Incest

Junge Said "I Don't Make Exceptions Other Than The Life Of The Mother" When Asked How He Feels About Exceptions To Abortion Bans. HOST: "Just one more question on this Mr. Junge, exceptions? Life of the mother, incest, rape? How do you feel about those?" JUNGE: "[...] My personal view is that it's a life, and I want to celebrate that life, and so I don't make exceptions other than the life of the mother." [The Art Lewis Show, 10/19/22] (VIDEO)

Junge: "No-Reason Abortion-On-Demand Needs To End." "I am pro-life. Life is a gift from God and there is no more vulnerable life than a baby in the womb. It's truly horrific that statewide Democrat elected officials have supported allowing the decision of whether a baby lives to be made even after that little life is outside of the womb. Partial-birth abortions, taxpayer-funding of abortions, and no-reason abortion-on-demand needs to end. The solution is life affirming alternatives, particularly support for soon-to-be mothers and adoption." [Paul Junge for Congress, accessed 8/11/22]

Junge Said He Was Pro-Life "At All Times." JUNGE: "I am pro-life. I support life at all times." [Paul Junge, Howell Debate, 2/20/20] (VIDEO)

2020: Junge Ran His Campaign For Congress On A Pledge To Oppose "Abortion Rights." "Junge is running a traditional Republican campaign, pledging to oppose tax increases, abortion rights and 'sanctuary cities.'" [MLive, 9/26/20]

Junge Did Not Support Exceptions For Abortion In Cases Of Rape Or Incest But Said There Was "Always An Exception For The Life Of The Mother." "Junge said he does not support exceptions for rape or incest but 'there's always an exception for the life of the mother,' he said. If Roe is struck down, he favors leaving the issue to states rather than enacting federal restrictions on abortion, he said." [Detroit News, 5/25/22]

• Focus On The Family: Regarding Abortion Restrictions, The Phrases "Life Of The Mother" And "Health Of The Mother" Were "Altogether Different." "Finally, we should add that we pointedly disagree with those who expand the phrase 'life of the mother' to read 'health of the mother.' Under this broader

interpretation almost any temporary discomfort during pregnancy can be used to justify an abortion. In fact, Doe v. Bolton, the United States Supreme Court case that along with Roe v. Wade legalized abortion in 1973, allows abortion for virtually any or no reason at all under the guise of 'health of the mother.' From our perspective, this is altogether different from those few cases in which the continuation of pregnancy places a mother's life in grave danger." [Focus On The Family, Accessed <u>8/25/22</u>]

Junge Said He Would Vote With Congressional Republican Leadership Who Have Supported A Nationwide Abortion Ban With No Exceptions

When Asked If He Would Vote In Line With Republican Congressional Leadership, Junge Said "Yes, Of Course I Will." "Junge has attacked Slotkin for voting with Democrats, but didn't promise to pursue bipartisanship himself if elected. 'Yes, of course I will,' Junge said when asked if he'll vote in line with Republican Party leaders in Congress. 'The key difference here is that Congresswoman Slotkin presented herself as uniquely bipartisan and she just simply isn't." [Michigan Radio, 9/27/20]

- After Roe Was Overturned, McCarthy And Pence Called For Abortion Bans Nationally. "Former Vice President Mike Pence said Friday that social conservatives in the post-Roe era 'must not rest and must not relent until the sanctity of life is restored to the center of American law in every state in the land.' 'We will continue to look wherever we can go to save as many lives as possible,' said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), without getting into specifics about what kind of legislation Republicans would put forward if they take control of the House in the midterm elections." [Los Angeles Times, 6/24/22]
- In Anticipation Of Roe V. Wade Being Overturned, Congressional Republicans Were Working On A "Push For A Strict Nationwide Ban On The Procedure If Republicans Retake Power In Washington." "Leading antiabortion groups and their allies in Congress have been meeting behind the scenes to plan a national strategy that would kick in if the Supreme Court rolls back abortion rights this summer, including a push for a strict nationwide ban on the procedure if Republicans retake power in Washington. The effort, activists say, is designed to bring a fight that has been playing out largely in the courts and state legislatures to the national political stage rallying conservatives around the issue in the midterms and pressuring potential 2024 GOP presidential candidates to take a stand. The discussions reflect what activists describe as an emerging consensus in some corners of the antiabortion movement to push for hard-line measures that will truly end a practice they see as murder while rejecting any proposals seen as half-measures." [Washington Post, 5/2/22]
- HEADLINE: "125 House Republicans Including Speaker Mike Johnson Back A 'Life At Conception' Bill Without Any IVF Exception." [Business Insider, 2/23/24]
- Mike Johnson Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee. "The RSC, which is chaired by Rep. Kevin Hern, R-Okla., counts among its members Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and his top three deputies in leadership. Johnson chaired the RSC from 2019 to 2021; his office did not immediately respond when asked about the new budget." [NBC News, 3/20/24]
- The RSC Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Endorsed The Life At Conception Act. "Rep. Alex Mooney's (R-WV) Life at Conception Act, which would provide 14th amendment protections at all stages of life." [Republican Study Committee, 3/20/24]
- Rewire: The Life At Conception Act "Would Effectively Ban Abortion With No Exception For Rape, Incest, Or To Save The Life Of The Pregnant Person." "H.R. 616 would grant equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and 'preborn' human person. [...] It would effectively ban abortion with no exception for rape, incest, or to save the life of the pregnant person. It would also ban birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception. In addition, it would eliminate certain medical choices for women, including some cancer treatments and in vitro fertilization." [Rewire, 9/28/19]

- Washington Post: The Life At Conception Act Signaled That Many Members "Would Like To See A Total Ban On Abortion." "Several abortion bans have already been introduced in Congress. A six-week abortion ban has been introduced in the House, by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), an*d the Life at Conception Act, which would recognize a fetus as a person with equal protections under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, has been introduced in both chambers. Nineteen Republican senators and well over 100 Republicans in the House have co-sponsored the measure, signaling that many would like to see a total ban on abortion." [Washington Post, 5/2/22]
- Los Angeles Times: The Life At Conception Act's Language "Leaves Little Room For Ambiguity On Abortion" And Would Constitute A Nationwide Ban On The Practice From The Moment Of Fertilization. "The Life at Conception Act is fewer than 300 words, but its language leaves little room for ambiguity on abortion. The bill, introduced in the U.S. House earlier in the congressional session, seeks 'equal protection for the right to life of each born and preborn human person,' specifying that it covers 'all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.' Put simply: 'It would be a nationwide abortion ban,' said Mary Ziegler, a professor at UC Davis School of Law who studies reproductive rights. Even California, which has positioned itself as a haven for abortion rights, would be affected." [Los Angeles Times, 8/29/22]
- The Life At Conception Act Did Not Include Exceptions For IVF. "This Congress, 125 House Republicans including Speaker Mike Johnson have cosponsored the 'Life at Conception Act,' which states that the term 'human being' includes 'all stages of life, including the moment of fertilization, cloning, or other moment at which an individual member of the human species comes into being.' The bill does not include any exception for in vitro fertilization (IVF), a reproductive treatment that allows mothers to fertilize several eggs outside the womb in order to increase the chances of a viable pregnancy." [Business Insider, 2/23/24]

Vox: A National Abortion Ban Would Supersede State Laws Meant To Protect Abortion Access. "The repeal of Roe v. Wade left the United States with a patchwork of state laws governing abortion. In parts of the South, someone seeking an abortion would need to travel hundreds of miles to get one. But a national ban would supersede even permissive state laws in states that have been working to expand access to abortion." [Vox, 6/25/22]

Junge Supported Overturning Roe V. Wade, Despite Michigan Republicans' Plans To Enforce The States 1931 Abortion Ban Without Exceptions For Rape Or Incest

July 18, 2022: Midland Daily News: Junge Said Overturning Roe "Allows That Matter To Be Decided By The People By Voters In Every State" And "As Someone Who Is Pro-Life, I Celebrate The Opportunity To Save Human Life." "The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade was appropriate, Junge said. 'This allows that matter to be decided by the people by voters in every state,' he said. 'As someone who is pro-life, I celebrate the opportunity to save human life." [Midland Daily News, 7/18/22]

Michigan Republican Legislative Leaders Wanted To Enforce The State's 1931 Abortion Ban. "In Michigan, the right to an abortion is teetering. Republicans who control the state legislature want to enforce a 1931 abortion ban that's still on the books. Democrats, including Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, have vowed not to let that happen." [NPR, 6/27/22]

If Roe V. Wade Was Overturned, Michigan Had A 1931 Law On The Books Banning Abortion, With The Only Exception Being To Save The Life Of The Mother. "Here in Michigan, we face an especially dangerous threat. Because we have a pre-Roe law banning abortion on the books, access to abortion in Michigan would be in danger if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade,' Dr. Sarah Wallett, chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood of Michigan, said in a statement. It is unclear whether the 1931 law, which dates to the 1800s, automatically would take effect if the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court precedent were overturned. The law makes it a felony to use an instrument or administer any substance with the intent 'to procure the miscarriage' of a woman unless necessary to preserve her life." [Associated Press, 9/2/21]

• Michigan's 1931 Abortion Ban Did Not Grant Exceptions In Cases Of Rape Or Incest. "A law passed in

Michigan in 1931 that bans abortions has been unenforceable since 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade. [...] The law — one of the strictest in the country — does not grant exceptions in cases of rape or incest. It does grant exceptions to 'preserve the life' of the mother, however, experts aren't sure exactly what that means." [Michigan Radio, 6/24/22]

- Michigan's 1931 Abortion Ban Only Allowed Abortions "Necessary To Preserve The Life Of Such Woman." "In theory, that would mean Michigan's law criminalizing most abortions is again enforceable: A 1931 statute only allows abortions 'necessary to preserve the life of such woman,' a vague standard left untested by doctors and the courts for decades. The law on Michigan's books does not allow exceptions for cases of rape or incest." [Detroit Free Press, 6/24/22]
- Under Michigan's 1931 Abortion Ban, Doctors Who Assist In Abortions And Pregnant People Who Used Medication For Self-Abortions Could Face Felony Charges And Up To Four Years In Prison. "A law passed in Michigan in 1931 that bans abortions has been unenforceable since 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade. [...] Under this law, almost all abortions would be considered a felony with a possible penalty of up to four years in prison. Both doctors who assist in abortions and pregnant people who use medication for self-abortions could be charged." [Michigan Radio, 6/24/22]
- Michigan's 1931 Legislation Also Made It A Misdemeanor To Sell Abortion Drugs In Michigan. "Michigan has had laws on the books since 1846 criminalizing abortion. The Michigan law, as revised in 1931, would make it a felony for a medical provider to perform an abortion unless it is necessary to preserve the life of the mother. The law also makes it a misdemeanor to sell abortion drugs in Michigan." [Bridge MI, 5/3/22]

Junge Opposed Michigan's Proposal 3 To Enshrine Reproductive Rights In The State Constitution And Effectively Prevent The State's 1931 Abortion Ban Without Exceptions For Rape Or Incest From Taking Effect

February 2024: In Response To A Question About Standing Up For Life, Junge Said "We Suffered A Pretty Bad Setback With The Ballot Proposal Last Time" And "We Can't Give Up That Fight." JUNGE: "The question was about making sure we stand up for life. And that's gonna continue. I mean, we have seen nationally, that was a tough issue here in Michigan, we suffered a pretty bad setback with the ballot proposal last time, and we've seen that across the country as well. So we can't give up that fight. You know, one thing I know we have to do is continue to just have a message of love and support. That isn't - I think sometimes on other side, it gets seen as an attack or as something that's trying to be restrictive, and it's more about, this is a life. And we want to support that life and we want to support people bringing that life into the world. And we need to make sure, we can't shy away from that message. And I don't intend that we will." [Paul Junge, Bay County Republican Party Meeting, 2/1/24] (VIDEO)

Michigan's Proposal 3 Established A "Fundamental Right To Reproductive Freedom" Including The Right To An Abortion, Contraception, And Infertility Care

HEADLINE: "Proposal 3: Michigan Voters Approve Abortion Rights Initiative." [Detroit News, 11/9/22]

HEADLINE: "Michigan Voters Approve Amendment Adding Reproductive Rights To State Constitution." [NPR, 11/9/22]

HEADLINE: "Michigan Votes To Put Abortion Rights Into State Constitution." [Politico, 11/9/22]

Michigan Proposal 3 Established A "Fundamental Right To Reproductive Freedom" Including The Right To Seek An Abortion, Contraception, And Infertility Care. "Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Michigan voters approved an amendment to enshrine abortion rights in the state's constitution, according to unofficial election night results. Proposal 3 establishes a 'fundamental right to reproductive freedom' which includes – but is not limited to – the right to seek abortion. It also protects a right to

contraception and infertility care, for instance. [...] Legal experts have argued that Proposal 3 offers strong protections for the right to seek abortions in Michigan. The amendment prohibits regulations unless justified by 'the limited purpose of protecting the health of an individual seeking care, consistent with clinical standards of practice and evidence-based medicine.' It opens the door to restricting abortions later in pregnancy when a health care professional deems a fetus viable, so long as lawmakers do not prohibit abortions necessary 'to protect the life or physical or mental health of the pregnant individual.'" [Detroit Free Press, 11/11/22]

Michigan Proposal 3 Specifically Protected "The Right Of Women To Make Decisions About Pregnancy, Contraception, Childbirth, And Abortion." "Michigan voters have adopted an amendment to the state constitution enshrining abortion rights, according to a call from The Associated Press. The vote effectively scraps a 1931 ban on the procedure that could have taken effect following the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade. The abortion ban was put on hold by a court order as the amendment campaign played out. Abortion rights supporters gathered a record 753,759 signatures to get the amendment on the ballot. The amendment specifically protects the right of women to make decisions about pregnancy, contraception, childbirth and abortion. The state could still regulate reproductive care after fetal viability, or about 24 weeks." [NPR, 11/9/22]

Michigan Proposal 3 Effectively Prevented The State's 1931 Abortion Ban Without Exceptions For Rape Or Incest From Taking Effect After The Ban Was Put On Hold Until The Ballot Proposal Played Out Following The Overturning Of Roe V. Wade

Michigan Proposal 3 Prevented The State's 1931 Abortion Ban From Taking Effect Post Roe V. Wade After A Court Put It On Hold Until The Amendment Campaign Played Out. "Michigan voters have adopted an amendment to the state constitution enshrining abortion rights, according to a call from The Associated Press. The vote effectively scraps a 1931 ban on the procedure that could have taken effect following the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade. The abortion ban was put on hold by a court order as the amendment campaign played out. Abortion rights supporters gathered a record 753,759 signatures to get the amendment on the ballot." [NPR, 11/9/22]

If Michigan's Proposal 3 Had Failed, The State's 1931 Ban With No Exceptions For Rape Or Incest Could Have Gone Back Into Effect. "Michigan voters, after an expensive and tense campaign, approved a sweeping amendment to the state's constitution guaranteeing the right to abortion and other reproductive health services. [...] Of the five abortion-rights measures on state ballots, Michigan's arguably carries the highest stakes. If it had failed, there remained the possibility that a 1931 law banning abortion with no exemptions for rape or incest could have gone back into effect. That law was blocked in court after Planned Parenthood and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer challenged it earlier this year. The court fight will continue – to decide if the law will be permanently struck down." [Politico, 11/9/22]

- After Proposal 3 Passed, Michigan's 1931 Law Would Continue In Court To Decide If It Would Be Permanently Struck Down. "Michigan voters, after an expensive and tense campaign, approved a sweeping amendment to the state's constitution guaranteeing the right to abortion and other reproductive health services. [...] Of the five abortion-rights measures on state ballots, Michigan's arguably carries the highest stakes. If it had failed, there remained the possibility that a 1931 law banning abortion with no exemptions for rape or incest could have gone back into effect. That law was blocked in court after Planned Parenthood and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer challenged it earlier this year. The court fight will continue to decide if the law will be permanently struck down." [Politico, 11/9/22]
- Proposal 3 All But Ensured Continued Abortion Access In Michigan Post Overturning Of Roe V. Wade. "Michigan voters, after an expensive and tense campaign, approved a sweeping amendment to the state's constitution guaranteeing the right to abortion and other reproductive health services. [...] Of the five abortion-rights measures on state ballots, Michigan's arguably carries the highest stakes. If it had failed, there remained the possibility that a 1931 law banning abortion with no exemptions for rape or incest could have gone back into effect. That law was blocked in court after Planned Parenthood and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer challenged it earlier this year. The court fight will continue to decide if the law will be permanently struck down. [...] The amendment vote all but ensures Michigan will remain a haven for abortion access in the midwest post-Roe, and

health care providers in the state are gearing up for an influx of patients from Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and other states that have or are likely to enforce near total bans on the procedure." [Politico, $\frac{11/9}{22}$]

Michigan's 1931 Abortion Ban Did Not Grant Exceptions In Cases Of Rape Or Incest. "A law passed in Michigan in 1931 that bans abortions has been unenforceable since 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade. [...] The law — one of the strictest in the country — does not grant exceptions in cases of rape or incest. It does grant exceptions to 'preserve the life' of the mother, however, experts aren't sure exactly what that means." [Michigan Radio, 6/24/22]

Under Michigan's 1931 Abortion Ban, Doctors Who Assist In Abortions And Pregnant People Who Used Medication For Self-Abortions Could Face Felony Charges And Up To Four Years In Prison. "A law passed in Michigan in 1931 that bans abortions has been unenforceable since 1973 when the Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade. [...] Under this law, almost all abortions would be considered a felony with a possible penalty of up to four years in prison. Both doctors who assist in abortions and pregnant people who use medication for self-abortions could be charged." [Michigan Radio, 6/24/22]

Michigan's 1931 Legislation Also Made It A Misdemeanor To Sell Abortion Drugs In Michigan. "Michigan has had laws on the books since 1846 criminalizing abortion. The Michigan law, as revised in 1931, would make it a felony for a medical provider to perform an abortion unless it is necessary to preserve the life of the mother. The law also makes it a misdemeanor to sell abortion drugs in Michigan." [Bridge MI, 5/3/22]

Michigan's 1846 State Law Was Updated By A 1931 Law, Which Was "One Of The Most Extreme Laws In The Country." "Michigan's pre-Roe law, which followed a similar 1846 law, makes it a four-year felony to use an instrument or administer any substance with the intent to abort a fetus unless necessary to preserve the woman's life. It has no exceptions in cases of rape and incest, and Whitmer has said Michigan would have 'one of the most extreme laws in the country." [ABC News, 5/3/22]

• Under 1846 State Law, Physicians Who Performed Abortions Would Face Up To One Year In Jail And Fines. "Michigan's ban on abortion except when the mother's life is at risk was written into the state's original set of laws in 1846. Its language and punishment were modernized in 1931. Both versions are below. 1846: "Every person who shall willfully administer to any pregnant woman any medicine, drug, substance or thing whatever, or shall employ any instrument or other means whatever, with intent hereby to procure the miscarriage of any such woman, unless the same shall have been necessary to preserve the life of such woman, or shall have been advised by two physicians to be necessary for that purpose, shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment in a county jail not more than one year, or by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment." [WILX, 8/15/18]

(MI-08) Message #2 Backup

Junge will join the extreme Republicans who are pushing a plan to phase out Social Security and Medicare in five years and end guaranteed benefits for Michigan seniors who have spent years paying into the programs. It's no surprise Junge can't relate to Michigan seniors who have worked their entire lives, given his recent admission that he "inherited some money... that doesn't require him to work."

Junge Will Join The Extreme Republicans Who Are Pushing A Plan To Phase Out Social Security And Medicare In Five Years And End Guaranteed Benefits For Michigan Seniors Who Have Spent Years Paying Into The Programs.

Junge Would Vote With Extreme Republicans To Pass A Plan To Phase Out Social Security And Medicare In Five Years

Junge Said He Would Vote In Line With Republican Leadership In Congress If Elected. "Yes, of course I will,' Junge said when asked if he'll vote in line with Republican Party leaders in Congress." [NPR, 9/27/20]

Senator Rick Scott, Chairman Of The NRSC, Proposed Requiring All Americans Pay Income Taxes, Which Would Raise Taxes By Hundreds Of Dollars On Middle Class And Working Class Families. "Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), who chairs the National Republican Senatorial Committee, has proposed an 11-point plan to 'Rescue America' including this: 'All Americans should pay some income tax to have skin in the game, even if a small amount. Currently over half of Americans pay no income tax.' The Tax Policy Center estimates that achieving Scott's goal could increase federal income taxes by more than \$100 billion in 2022 alone. More than 80 percent of the tax increase would be paid by households making about \$54,000 or less, and 97 percent would be paid by those making less than about \$100,000 [...] TPC estimates that the lowest-income households—those making less than about \$27,000 annually—would pay an average of nearly \$1,000 more in taxes in 2022, reducing their after-tax incomes by nearly 6 percent. Low-income families with children would pay the most: Achieving Scott's goal would slash their after-tax incomes by more than \$5,000, or more than 20 percent. A Scott-like plan would raise taxes on middle-income households by an average of \$450." [Tax Policy Center, 2/24/22]

Scott Ran A TV Ad On His Proposal: "We've Put Together A Plan To Rescue America After Republicans Win This Year." [Florida Politics 2/24/22; YouTube, 2/23/22]

Sen. Scott's Plan: "All Federal Legislation Sunsets In 5 Years. If A Law Is Worth Keeping, Congress Can Pass It Again." "All federal legislation sunsets in 5 years. If a law is worth keeping, Congress can pass it again." [U.S. Senator Rick Scott 11 Point Plan To Rescue America, accessed 7/25/22]

New York Times: "Taken Literally" Scott's Plan 'Would Leave The Fate Of Medicare, Medicaid And Social Security To The Whims Of A Congress That Rarely Passes Anything So Expansive." "Beyond taxing everyone, under the plan, all federal laws would sunset in five years. 'If a law is worth keeping, Congress can pass it again,' the plan says. Taken literally, that would leave the fate of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security to the whims of a Congress that rarely passes anything so expansive." [New York Times, 3/31/22]

Junge Supported The Republican Tax Scam That Jeopardized Social Security And Medicare

Junge Praised The Republican Tax Bill And Said He Would Support That Agenda If Elected. [13:27] JUNGE: "And of course, the tax reform that the Republican Congress passed in the previous Congress is contributing to that as well. Record low unemployment. Wages on the rise. That's all President Trump's leadership. And should you send me to Washington, I will support that agenda to keep jobs in this country." [Orion Neighborhood Television, YouTube, 2/6/20] (VIDEO)

AP: Economists And Nonpartisan Analysts Warned That The 2017 Tax Bill "Will Likely Escalate Federal Debt, Intensify Pressure To Cut Spending On Social Programs And Further Widen America's Troubling Income Inequality." "The tax overhaul of 2017 amounts to a high-stakes gamble by Republicans in Congress: That slashing taxes for corporations and wealthy individuals will accelerate growth and assure greater prosperity for Americans for years to come. The risks are considerable. A wide range of economists and nonpartisan analysts have warned that the bill will likely escalate federal debt, intensify pressure to cut spending on social programs and further widen America's troubling income inequality." [AP, 12/17/17]

After Passing A Tax Bill That Added Trillions To The Deficit, Speaker Ryan Said Medicare And Medicaid Would Need To Be "Reformed" In Order To Decrease The Deficit. "With his dream of tax reform now realized, Ryan is hoping to make progress on two other issues he's targeted during his two-decade career in Washington: entitlement and welfare reform. 'We're going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and the deficit,' Ryan, a former Budget Committee chairman, said in a recent interview this month on the Ross Kaminsky radio talk show. Medicare and Medicaid are the 'big drivers of debt,' Ryan said, suggesting Republicans could once again use the budget reconciliation process to avoid a Democratic filibuster. Medicare is the 'biggest entitlement that's got to have reform,' Ryan added." [The Hill, 12/26/17]

- HEADLINE: After Tax Overhaul, GOP Sets Sights on Medicare, Social Security [US News, 12/7/17]
- HEADLINE: Ryan says Republicans to target welfare, Medicare, Medicaid spending in 2018 [Washington Post, 12/6/17]
- HEADLINE: Paul Ryan Pushes to Keep Overhaul of Safety-Net Programs on GOP Agenda [Wall Street Journal, 2/4/18]

US News: "The Most Likely Targets For Cuts And Restructuring In The Coming Months Are Likely To Be Medicare And Social Security Benefits." "Instead, the most likely targets for cuts and restructuring in the coming months are likely to be Medicare and Social Security benefits. Rubio last week indicated 'the driver of our debt is the structure of Social Security and Medicare for future beneficiaries.' Ryan issued a similar assessment just a few days later, noting that 'health care entitlements ... are the big drivers of our debt." [US News, 12/7/17]

AP: House Budget "Reprises A Controversial Plan To Turn Medicare Into A Voucher-Like Program." "The House on Thursday passed a \$4.1 trillion budget plan that promises deep cuts to social programs while paving the way for Republicans to rewrite the tax code later this year. The 2018 House GOP budget reprises a controversial plan to turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for future retirees as well as the party's efforts to repeal the "Obamacare" health law. Republicans controlling Congress have no plans to actually implement those cuts while they pursue their tax overhaul." [Associated Press, 10/5/17]

Politico: House Budget Included "\$203 Billion In Mandatory Cuts Achieved Largely By Cutting Safety Net Programs." "Under the House budget, any tax reconciliation bill would have to include the \$203 billion in mandatory cuts achieved largely by cutting safety net programs. That prompted some GOP moderates to warn of the political optics of cutting food stamps or Medicaid to pay for corporate tax breaks. The House budget also lays out strict parameters to prevent a tax plan from adding to the deficit, even short-term. And that language has given heartburn to Budget panel members like Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Ohio), who almost voted against the resolution because he was afraid it doesn't provide tax writers with enough funding flexibility to achieve desired cuts." [Politico, 10/2/17]

Junge Would Have Voted With Republican Leadership To Pass The Republican Tax Scam

Junge Said He Would Vote In Line With Republican Leadership In Congress If Elected. "Yes, of course I will,' Junge said when asked if he'll vote in line with Republican Party leaders in Congress." [NPR, 9/27/20]

2017: Rep. Mike Johnson Voted For The FY18 Republican Budget. In October 2017, Mike Johnson voted for: "Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would provide for \$3.2 trillion in new budget authority in fiscal 2018, not including off-budget accounts. It would assume \$1.22 trillion in discretionary spending in fiscal 2018. It would assume the repeal of the 2010 health care overhaul law. It also would propose reducing spending on mandatory programs such as Medicare and Medicaid and changing programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (also known as food stamps). It would call for restructuring Medicare into a 'premium support' system beginning in 2024. I would also require the House Ways and Means Committee to report out legislation under the budget reconciliation process that would provide for a revenue-neutral, comprehensive overhaul of the U.S. tax code and would include instructions to 11 House committees to trigger the budget reconciliation process to cut mandatory spending. The concurrent resolution would assume that, over 10 years, base (non-Overseas Contingency Operations) discretionary defense spending would be increased by a total of \$929 billion over the Budget Control Act caps and non-defense spending be reduced by \$1.3 trillion." The concurrent resolution was adopted, 219-206. [H Con Res 71, Vote #557, 10/5/17; CQ, 10/5/17]

Junge Would Vote With Republican Leadership On The Republican Study Committee To Raise The Retirement Age And Turn Medicare Into A Premium Support Model

Junge Said He Would Vote In Line With Republican Leadership In Congress If Elected. "Yes, of course I will,' Junge said when asked if he'll vote in line with Republican Party leaders in Congress." [NPR, 9/27/20]

Mike Johnson Was A Member Of The Republican Study Committee. "The RSC, which is chaired by Rep. Kevin Hern, R-Okla., counts among its members Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and his top three deputies in leadership. Johnson chaired the RSC from 2019 to 2021; his office did not immediately respond when asked about the new budget." [NBC News, 3/20/24]

HEADLINE: "Social Security Benefits Targeted For Cuts By House Conservatives." [Bloomberg, 6/14/23]

The Republican Study Committee's Budget Called For Raising The Retirement Age For Social Security. The RSC Budget would "[...] make modest adjustments to the retirement age for future retirees to account for increases in life expectancy." "Every Social Security retirement reform supported by the RSC Budget was previously offered in a bipartisan fashion. For instance, the RSC Budget would make modest changes to the primary insurance amount (PIA) benefit formula for individuals who are not near retirement and earn more than the wealthiest PIA benefit factor. It would also make modest adjustments to the retirement age for future retirees to account for increases in life expectancy. Finally, for these individuals, it would limit and phase out auxiliary benefits for high income earners." [Republican Study Committee, Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 6/14/23]

- Roll Call: "The Plan Offered By The 175-Member Republican Study Committee Would Gradually Raise The Age At Which Future Retirees Can Start Claiming Full Social Security Benefits From 67 To 69." "The plan offered by the 175-member Republican Study Committee would gradually raise the age at which future retirees can start claiming full Social Security benefits from 67 to 69, a politically fraught proposal that's all but certain to appear in Democratic campaign ads." [Roll Call, 6/14/23]
- Roll Call: "The Retirement Age Would Reach 69 For Those Who Turn 62 In 2033." "Cline said the group has proposed gradually raising the Social Security retirement age, but not for current retirees or those nearing retirement. He said those now aged 59 would see an increase in the retirement age of three months per year beginning in 2026. The retirement age would reach 69 for those who turn 62 in 2033." [Roll Call, 6/14/23]

The Republican Study Committee Budget Would Implement A Premium Support Model. "To achieve this, the RSC budget would implement a premium support model where private plans would compete with a federal Medicare plan (the 'Fed Plan') that would offer the traditional Medicare benefits received through Part A, B, and D." [Republican Study Committee, Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, 6/14/23]

- Premium Support Models Would Require Beneficiaries To Pay Higher Premiums Or Face Fewer Benefits. "In areas where Medicare incurs relatively high costs, the amount of the premium-support payment would equal the cost of a relatively inexpensive private plan, and beneficiaries would have to pay higher premiums to participate in traditional Medicare. In areas with relatively low Medicare spending, beneficiaries who wanted to enroll in a private plan would face higher premiums or fewer benefits, or might find that no private plan was available. [...] The vouchers would purchase less coverage with each passing year, pushing more costs on to beneficiaries. Over time, seniors would have to pay more to keep the health plans and the doctors they like, or they would get fewer benefits." [Center On Budget and Policy Priorities, 3/28/12]
- Premium Support Models Shifted Costs Onto Beneficiaries. "In areas where Medicare incurs relatively high costs, the amount of the premium-support payment would equal the cost of a relatively inexpensive private plan, and beneficiaries would have to pay higher premiums to participate in traditional Medicare. In areas with relatively low Medicare spending, beneficiaries who wanted to enroll in a private plan would face higher premiums or fewer benefits, or might find that no private plan was available. [...] The vouchers would purchase less coverage with each passing year, pushing more costs on to beneficiaries. Over time, seniors would have to pay more to keep the health plans and the doctors they like, or they would get fewer benefits." [Center On Budget and Policy Priorities, 3/28/12]

It's No Surprise Junge Can't Relate To Michigan Seniors Who Have Worked Their Entire Lives, Given His Recent Admission That He "Inherited Some Money... That Doesn't Require Him To Work."

Detroit News: After The 2022 Election, Junge Inherited Money After His Father Died Putting Him In A Position That Didn't Require Him To Work. "After the 2022 election, he said he didn't work full time, spending last year with family and losing the 40 pounds he'd put on during the campaign. He said he inherited some money after his father passed, putting him in a financial position that doesn't require him to work. 'I've tried and failed twice; that's the truth of it. So after coming up short against Dan Kildee last time, I just stayed here in Grand Blanc, and I thought, 'Hey, what do I want to do next?' Junge said. 'When Dan Kildee announced in November that he wasn't gonna run, I got in the race the next day." [Detroit News, 7/28/24]

• Detroit News: Paul Junge "Inherited Some Money [...] That Doesn't Require Him To Work." "After the 2022 election, he said he didn't work full time, spending last year with family and losing the 40 pounds he'd put on during the campaign. He said he inherited some money after his father passed, putting him in a financial position that doesn't require him to work. 'I've tried and failed twice; that's the truth of it. So after coming up short against Dan Kildee last time, I just stayed here in Grand Blanc, and I thought, 'Hey, what do I want to do next?" Junge said. 'When Dan Kildee announced in November that he wasn't gonna run, I got in the race the next day."" [Detroit News, 7/28/24]

Junge: "I Have To Tell My Parents All The Time, That One Of These Days I Will Kind Of Grow Up And Decide What I Want To Do." JUNGE: "Ray mentioned in one of my previous lives, and I have to tell my parents all the time, that one of these days I will kind of grow up and decide what I want to do and stick with something for a while instead of changing from this to that." [Leonardtown Rotary, YouTube, 5/25/17] (VIDEO 1:30)