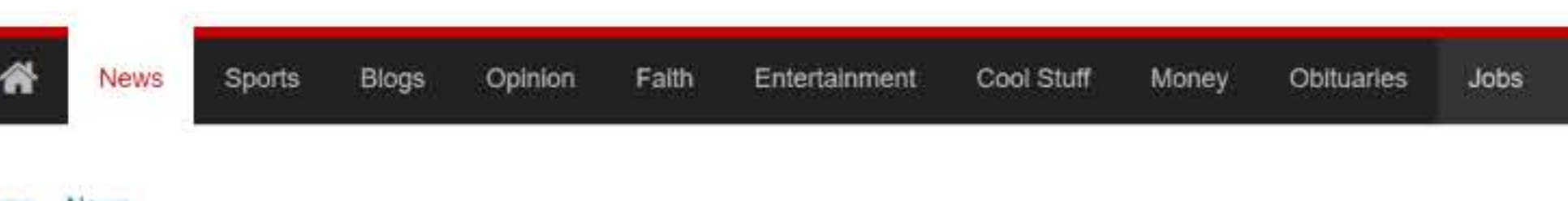


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By Alex Stuckey | The Salt Lake Tribune  
Published June 29, 2017 7:43 am

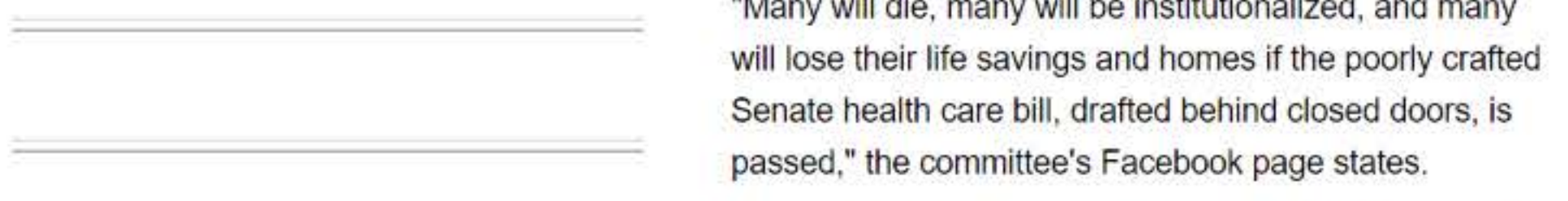
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"Many will die, many will be institutionalized, and many will lose their life savings and homes if the poorly crafted Senate health care bill, drafted behind closed doors, is passed," the committee's Facebook page states.

Though Mitchell was one of only two individuals charging cars in their wheelchairs, other protesters formed a human wall across State Street at 100 South, blocking traffic for about 30 minutes and holding banners that read "Senator Hatch, Don't Kill Us," while eliciting angry shouts, loud horns and crude gestures from drivers.

The demonstrators also chanted and held signs that read "Hatch + Lee + Trumpcare = murder" and "Save people's lives, not taxes for the rich."

Hatch spokesman Matt Whitlock disputed the protesters' message.

"Political engagement is valuable," he said in a statement. "But if activists can't make their point without inflammatory rhetoric accusing the senator, who has passed more lifesaving health care legislation than anyone alive, of murder, they do more damage to the debate than credit to their viewpoint."

youngsters along with his backing of other medical initiatives.

"Senator Hatch is focused on working in that same spirit to address the undeniable shortcomings of Obamacare," the statement said, "and to finally bring Utahns and all Americans the patient-centered and affordable care they deserve."

Tuesday's protesters doubt the GOP plan will deliver on that score. Margaret Walton's 3-year-old daughter, Charlie, held a sign aloft from her stroller that stated simply, "This is bad."

Earlier this year, Charlie was diagnosed with Kawasaki disease, a condition that causes inflammation in blood vessel walls. Charlie spent weeks in the hospital as doctors continued countless tests to determine what was wrong, Walton said, and would have racked up a medical bill of tens of thousands of dollars.

But, thanks to Medicaid, Walton said most of the care was covered.

The Republican proposal would roll back Medicaid expansion and make cuts to the existing program, while also reducing taxes for the wealthy.

those who are privileged enough to not have to worry about it," Walton said. "For the rest of us ... it is something that determines our survival and affects our pursuit of happiness."

Mitchell eventually stopped charging cars and joined the line of protesters.

Despite the heat, she said it was important to show Utahns that disabled people were out there and willing to fight for health care.

"In this chair, I can move. Without it, I can't," she said. "I need to have people know I'm not invisible."

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Non\_Mbr · 2 months ago "Many will die, many will be institutionalized, and many will lose their life savings and homes if the poorly crafted Senate health care bill, drafted behind closed doors, is passed."

But the important thing to remember is Hatch will still have his.

Good. I was worried about Orrin. The \$500,000 he got from big Pharma only goes so far.

Castle\_fan → jazzsax\_ut · 2 months ago The GOP Healthcare plan replaces "First do no harm" by "First make money". Preferably a lot of it!

Non\_Mbr → jazzsax\_ut · 2 months ago Yeah, he's good until he dies of old age, probably in the next couple months.

theshadow · 2 months ago Sweet. Glad to see people are not only angry but organized. BTW: Wasn't there an article today saying how Utah drivers are the second biggest a\*\*holes in the nation? More proof :)

Johnny\_UT → theshadow · 2 months ago You mean wheelchair drivers, right?

theshadow → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago No, I mean anyone who would purposefully advance upon a wheelchair driver for any reason whatsoever, or attempt to speed around one. That's Deplorable. No one's time is that precious.

Johnny\_UT → theshadow · 2 months ago That seems pretty deplorable in and of itself, all politics aside.

ouisc → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago All wheelchairs should be on the sidewalk where we can't see them and can continue to ignore their needs.

Johnny\_UT → ouisc · 2 months ago What - do you want a special "wheelchair lane" on the street like bicycles? All paraplegics I know drive their own cars.

ouisc → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago Whoosh.

Johnny\_UT → ouisc · 2 months ago The sound of your failed attempt at clever sarcasm.

theshadow → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago That seems like the act of a citizen desperate and fearful that her politicians have abandoned her. Arguably they have. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

Johnny\_UT → theshadow · 2 months ago Suicide is a desperate measure, too. This woman was showing more than desperation, she was showing a good dose of stupidity.

theshadow → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago Whatever dude. You can focus on the woman in the wheelchair. The rest of the nation is focused on the shameful "health care bill" Republicans have cobbled together after nearly seven years of b'tching.

Johnny\_UT → theshadow · 2 months ago I'm not the one focusing on the woman in the wheelchair - 95% of the article was the woman driving her wheelchair into oncoming traffic. I've got nothing against the protesters, but driving your wheelchair into traffic for the sake of attention is just stupid, whatever your cause.

ouisc → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago I'm certain she was well aware of the risks.

Johnny\_UT → ouisc · 2 months ago Sorry, grandma, but you're just hurting your cause.

This comment was deleted.

Johnny\_UT → Guest · 2 months ago Wait till I confirm it by riding my wheelchair into traffic - not.

Seamus → Cool Dude · 2 months ago Ah - the man with the most inappropriate name on earth returns to talk more rubbish. Cool Dude 🙄

Cool Dude → Guest · 2 months ago I can't stoop to that level. Your own words say everything about you.

Common Sense 4 Sale → Guest · 2 months ago Too, do it.

Glenn\_Quagmire → Guest · 2 months ago A real man who drinks peach schnapps? Lol

Low\_Volter → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago Your bias shines through brightly by calling her grandma. Stop already, you have proven yourself to be an arrogant jerk.

Johnny\_UT → Low\_Volter · 2 months ago

But if she told me she spent the afternoon charging cars in downtown traffic, I'd tell her that was a very stupid thing to do.

Low\_Volter → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago BS...nice try

theshadow → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago Well, thankfully it sounds like that won't be a problem. You two can just spend the afternoon complaining about Obama, Hillary, and Bill :)

Johnny\_UT → theshadow · 2 months ago I'm so sick of politics, I don't even care anymore. This is about an arrogant jerk of a wheelchair driver who deliberately blocked downtown traffic.

Smonster → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago This is why protesters block traffic

EmmanuelGoldstein1984 → Johnny\_UT · 2 months ago You probably think Gandhi was "stupid" for refusing to eat.

roybreaker → EmmanuelGoldstein1984 · 2 months ago

Cool Dude → theshadow · 2 months ago They pull that type of stunt - they are responsible if the driver cannot avoid them. Stupid. Not only physically handicapped -- obviously mentally handicapped as well. And completely counter-productive to their "cause".

Seamus → Cool Dude · 2 months ago Guess that makes two of you. The driver was stopped, so how on earth would not be able to avoid her? Do you understand the concept of brake and accelerator pedals in a motorized vehicle?

HaroldTheCat → theshadow · 2 months ago I'm happy to see this organized protesting event, not the blocking traffic that is going on.

armchair naturalist → HaroldTheCat · 2 months ago How about some good old fashioned rioting? Dems being nice is what got us into this situation

HaroldTheCat → armchair naturalist · 2 months ago It might come to that soon when the pitchforks come out.

Cool Dude → armchair naturalist · 2 months ago You have a point. Dems are good at that sort of thing. Rioting. Looting. Plundering. Destruction of property.

Racine13 · 2 months ago It matters only to those who use it. Our representatives will cave to Party pressure. Kiss up to Trump.

This comment was deleted.

LuigiCovfefe → Guest · 2 months ago It's a different kind of ring, and it's not in his back pocket. It may be in the vicinity.

ouisc · 2 months ago Jesus, people, don't you know that if you get a debilitating medical condition, then you file for bankruptcy and be denied basic healthcare? It's not like anybody is taking away your right to go bankrupt! /s

CanuckInOz → ouisc · 2 months ago That legislation will come after the Social Security benefits are stripped. It's #3 on the list of cost cutting measures.

HaroldTheCat · 2 months ago You've the right to protest, not the right to block traffic!

alphabravocharlie → HaroldTheCat · 2 months ago It's counter-productive. When protesters do this, do they ever ask themselves if they've harassed someone who supports their cause?

theshadow → alphabravocharlie · 2 months ago It may well be, but you know what? These are extraordinary days. People are going to react emotionally. At least she's not shooting GOP lawmakers. If I was stuck in the traffic, I'd relax a minute and let them have their moment. Eventually, and probably not too long from when I'd be stopped, I'd be back on my way.

alphabravocharlie → theshadow · 2 months ago Yeah, because you seem like a rational person.

But we're talking Utah voters here. This is a block of people who continuously vote against their best interest. We also need these people to contact their senators to tell them to vote against the bill. Don't you think it might be harder to convince people that your cause/message is worth the time when you've so blatantly wasted theirs?

theshadow → alphabravocharlie · 2 months ago Perhaps. Utahns seem to have a certain intractability.

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