

Award: Golden Bedpan Dis-service Award
Recipient: Speaker Paul Ryan vs. President Donald J. Trump
Presenter: Chris Garcia

Before we announce the winner of the 2017 Golden Bedpan Dis-service Award, let's get to know what this award is about. It's probably obvious to you by the looks of it that it's not something you *want* to be presented with – probably why there is never someone here to receive the award. This award goes to those who have actively worked against the health and welfare of their community. This is not a list you want to be on. For example, last year's winner was Governor Rauner.

The contenders this year are both very public figures, each with a long history of disservice but this bedpan is only big enough for one.

First, we have Speaker Paul Ryan. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998 where he began his tireless crusade of cutting social and health programs and attacking the poor. His efforts have obstinately focused on downsizing Social Security benefits, privatizing Medicare, and block granting Medicaid, which he has been dreaming of since he was "drinking at a keg." Now, if he says it like that, he might be doing it wrong, don't you think? Much like his job as an elected representative where instead of standing up for his constituents, he has attacked the most vulnerable.

Most recently, you might know him from his efforts and failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act by stumping for passage of the American Health Care Act, which would have left over 24 million people without health insurance and ended Medicaid as we know it by block granting it. Thankfully after years of crying wolf about repealing the ACA there was nothing to show for it. As Ryan apparently learned and was heard to say out loud: "Doing big things is hard." but saying them is pretty easy. Unfortunately, despite multiple failures, Ryan is bound and determined to hurt most Americans by passing the American Health Care Act. We wish he would just take a play from the book of some of our other elected officials and just go play golf!

If you believe in the inherent value of strengthening and protecting our safety net programs, then Paul Ryan deserves your vote.

Our other contender is President Donald J. Trump, a New York reality TV star, real estate developer, and relative newcomer to politics. Trump has broken records with his presidency – oldest, wealthiest, quickest lowest approval rating, and the first lacking any prior government or military experience. But, there is something that makes him

stand out in comparison to every other president we've had and that is that he speaks his mind. It's really amazing how it works too, everything he says is great, like really great, terrific sentences with the best words, sometimes unintelligible words but words nonetheless, at least to him.

Trump has promised to repeal and replace the ACA with a plan that would give "insurance for everyone" and "reduce premiums" (which sounds very similar to a single payer plan), and yet he supported the American Health Care Act, which would do the exact opposite and which he couldn't even pass with a Republican majority. So much for the Art of the Deal.

He also proposed a budget that would gut the Environmental Protection Agency, since "what they do is a disgrace." He thinks climate change is a Chinese hoax. His proposed budget would also gut Meals on Wheels, Sesame Street, and NPR – just to name a few, as well as every major department that deals with humans and the environment.

If you believe in maintaining and improving health care, housing, transportation, labor standards, the environment, etc., as well as the integrity of the executive branch, then Trump is most deserving of your vote for Golden Bedpan!

With that we are ready to announce the winner of the Golden Bedpan – man I really wish I had a drumroll...

The winner is Speaker of the House Paul Ryan with 310 votes over President Trump's 149 votes.

Hope you enjoyed our program, now please sit back and enjoy a look back at 40 years of our organization's work in a 20-minute slideshow!