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CORPORATE STOCK BUYBACKS HIT \$500 BILLION SINCE TAX LAW PASSED WITH WALGREENS' \$10 BILLION ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY

The Pharmacy Giant Becomes the Latest Corporation to Use its Trump-GOP Tax Cut To Reward its Shareholders, Not its Employees or Customers

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Walgreens, the second largest pharmacy chain store in the U.S., today announced that it will [repurchase \\$10 billion worth of stock](#) from its shareholders, the latest in a growing list of corporations that are using their Trump-GOP tax cut to reward its wealthy shareholders instead of its workers or lowering prices for consumers.

The Walgreens announcement brings the total of corporate stock buybacks since passage in December of the Trump-GOP tax cuts to nearly \$503 billion, according to an analysis by [Americans for Tax Fairness](#).

Stock buybacks mainly benefit CEOs and wealthy shareholders, rather than raise the wages of workers or make new job-creating investments as proponents of the tax cuts promised. Forty-percent of all stock is owned by the richest 1% while the [richest 10% own 84%](#). Since passage of the tax cut law, corporations are spending 72 times more on stock buybacks than the \$7 billion they are paying out to workers in one-time bonuses or wage hikes.

The tax-cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy and big corporations will add \$1.9 trillion to the federal debt over the next 10 years, according to the non-partisan [Congressional Budget Office](#). To help pay for the cuts, House Republicans last week released a [budget plan for 2019](#) that cuts \$2.1 trillion from Medicare and Medicaid, \$923 billion from food and nutrition and other income security supports, and \$231 billion from education and social service programs.

“Walgreens’ announcement today is another example of how CEOs and wealthy shareholders are the real beneficiaries of the Trump Tax Scam,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness. “Instead of giving workers the \$4,000 raise they were promised or lowering the cost of prescription drugs for its customers, Walgreens has followed the path of numerous other corporations that are putting their tax cut windfall in the pockets of rich executives and shareholders instead of job producing investments.”

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“President Trump and the GOP promised that these huge tax cuts would primarily help the middle class, give workers a \$4,000 raise, and lead to major business investment,” said Frank Clemente, executive director of Americans for Tax Fairness. “It’s now been six months since the tax cut law was passed, and none of those promises have come true. Workers are still waiting for their pay raise and paying higher gas prices and higher health care premiums, while wealthy shareholders are trying to decide how to spend their tax cut windfall.”

Key findings from [ATF’s report](#) about how Wisconsin employers are sharing their tax cuts show that:

- Only 11 Wisconsin employers out of 108,745 are providing quantifiable one-time bonuses or wage hikes due to the tax cuts.
- Only 1.1% of Wisconsin workers — 34,285 out of 3.1 million — have been promised one-time bonuses or wage hikes due to the tax cuts.
- Just three Wisconsin companies will get a total of \$163.6 million in tax cuts this year alone, which is four times more than the \$43 million Wisconsin workers have been promised in bonuses and wage hikes from the tax cuts.
- Six Wisconsin corporations have announced \$2.1 billion in stock buybacks that mostly benefit CEOs and the wealthy since the tax cuts were passed. This is 49 times more than the \$43 million Wisconsin workers have been promised in bonuses and wage hikes from the tax cuts.

Key findings from [ATF’s report](#) about how Trump’s tax cuts effect the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Wisconsin show that:

- To help pay for tax cuts that mostly benefit the wealthy and corporations, the new tax law reaps \$314 billion in savings by repealing a key part of the ACA requiring those who can afford it to buy health insurance.
- As a result, 13 million Americans will lose health care coverage by 2025, according to the Congressional Budget Office, including 217,000 Wisconsin residents.
- Health insurance premiums are expected to spike by an average of 10% in most of the next ten years, or by \$2,270 in Wisconsin in 2019 alone, for those who buy policies on the ACA’s individual market.
- The richest 1% of state taxpayers will get 28% of Wisconsin’s total tax cuts this year. The bottom 60% of state taxpayers will get just 15% of the tax cuts, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

- Wisconsin's richest 1% will each get a tax cut of \$53,430 a year, on average. The bottom 60% will get a tax cut of \$460—about a dollar a day.

“The Trump-GOP tax cuts are a disaster for workers, families and for health care coverage,” Clemente said. “First, the law repeals a key part of the Affordable Care Act, which will spike insurance premiums for many struggling families and older Americans near retirement age. Next, the tax cuts are adding nearly \$2 trillion to the deficit, giving conservatives in Congress an excuse to slash Medicare and Medicaid, and even Social Security, which will further impact Wisconsin families.”

Despite the failure of the tax cut law to live up to the promises by its supporters, President Trump and members of his party in Congress are proposing a second round of tax cuts for the wealthy that could cost another \$1 trillion. The resulting increase in the national debt will embolden conservatives to demand even more cuts to health care, education, nutrition services, housing and more.

See americansfortaxfairness.org for more information.

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