

Somehow the Republican party has gone from "elections have consequences" to "never mind about the election." For better or worse, they ran last time on a platform of repealing the health care bill and did not get the votes to do it.

In the meantime, the Republicans seem determined en masse to go down with their ship, taking all the rest of us with them unfortunately. And curiously it's no longer even much about the health care bill. If you ask them what they really need to get out of this ultimate act of obstructionism, many say they no longer know.

Except that Paul Ryan, their last nominee for Vice President, just spilled the beans. His proposal is a 6 week restart in exchange for cuts to Social Security and Medicare ONLY. And there you have it, the real Republican agenda, to kill off Social Security and Medicare or else they will blow up the world. And all that just so they can hold our government for yet more ransom in just another six weeks.

The government shutdown must end immediately.

The artificial debt limit ceiling must be raised to match what Congress has already spent, and NEVER be used again as a cudgel for minority policy tyranny. Not in 6 weeks, not next year . . . never again.

When the latest shutdown started, Michelle Bachmann was quoted as saying the Republicans had never been merrier. We, the people of the United States, are not merry. The shutdown merry-go-round must stop.