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The following is a satirical piece. Please don't take statements to heart as this piece is meant for entertainment purposes.

Senicide: America's Solution

If you turn to Channel 5 or scroll through social media like Facebook and Twitter, you'll see there's no lack of protests. The most major ones are against our healthcare system and unemployment. According to the World Bank, we spend seventeen percent of our GDP on healthcare, that is the second most in the world, yet many people still lack or face inadequate coverage! The average American makes annual doctor visits less than most other first world countries, such as Canada and France, yet we pay more than them per visit. We also pay more than most other countries for our medicine and drugs. On average, Americans pay more than triple the price that Britain does for the top globally bought drugs. This is all but only a portion of the problems with our healthcare. It is easy to see why so many Americans are infuriated over this matter. Other than healthcare, protests regarding unemployment are also prominent. Despite unemployment rates lowering to only five percent as of December 2015, many are still concerned over the issue, as we see homeless scurrying through the streets and poverty continuing to persist. Many Americans suffer from poverty and have to frenzy daily to pay for rent and to come up with the money needed in order to live and raise their families.

I for one am assured that the government is hard at work finding ways to resolve these grievances. Probably as we speak, they are working diligently behind the scenes, trying to better our health care system, lower unemployment rates, and calculating ways to improve America's poverty. It seems that they are also busy doing other tasks of similar priorities on their agenda, such as figuring out how best to use taxes to both help the people while paying themselves a handsome share for their hard work.

Resolving anyone of these problems alone would benefit America to such an extent that it is not unlikely that the one responsible would have their name engraved on every house and stone bench. I wouldn't be surprised if shrines were even erected to thank them for their benevolence. I'm not claiming that I know better than the government, but I have a plan to propose that I believe will resolve all these issues that gnaw at America's vitality. I have spent many years balancing my ideas and performing the necessary computations. I have listened to the most intellectual of people and with their inputs and outputs I have come to a conclusion that there is only one way for America to resolve these matters. Not only is my plan both ethical in that it will relieve the suffering of a huge portion of Americans, it will provide jobs and produce a hefty sum of wealth for distribution. The cost of my plan is negligible while the benefits are substantial. The matter of the issue is not if America is capable of enacting my plan, but rather if we're willing.

Throughout America the elderly are coughing and wheezing, oftentimes bedridden. They swarm hospital beds, succumbing to various illnesses as their immune systems deteriorate with

time. Although they say they're fine, many suffer from depression. High levels of stress are prevalent in the elderly leading to higher chances of suffering strokes. As days go by, the elderly lose friends which further spurs their sorrow, and eventually lose reasoning as their brain deteriorates. Accompanied with age comes dementia and memory loss. How miserable it must be to feel oneself lose their sense of reasoning and questions one's own sanity! It is inarguable that the elderly suffer by the day, and they continue to suffer to a greater and greater of an extent as they continue to live on. Modern medicine has pushed human longevity past nature's intentions and boundaries, leaving today's elders suffering from extended unnatural years of pain.

Besides this suffering, in our generation many elderly are neglected and ignored by their families. Although there was once a time they were seen as providers of wisdom, it is now common to see youths disrespect and mistreat the elderly. That is because they no longer need the assistance of the elderly, as they already have the almighty internet with its helpers Google and Social Media to provide for them all that they need to know. The image of the elderly among our generation has changed. In the past, they were the embodiment of knowledge. Now, they are commonly seen as "a group of weak and technologically incapable beings who pester us daily on how to use the internets and to massage their sore shoulders."

I propose that we end this suffering, as it is the most humane approach. Senior citizens no longer have a sufficient role in society, as they are incapable of work and their knowledge is insignificant in the face of the world wide web, to justify the resources that they consume to live. This is the central idea of my plan. I propose that we end their lives, as it is both the most humanitarian thing to do as well as the most productive overall. Life as an elder is undoubtedly unsatisfying for themselves and for society's productivity. The elderly not only suffer themselves, but there is a toll on the families that provide for them, and on our tax spendings. By relieving them of their suffering not only are we performing a good deed, but we will also in turn help and prosper the lives of many others.

The elderly are classified as those over 65. Thus, I suggest that when one reaches the age of 65, that they be executed a month after, for the benefit of the nation. A month is given as a "birthday present" and as a gift for their contribution or rather, future contributions to America. I call this process "the Elimination." By eliminating the elderly from the population we are performing a saintly act for both them, and the nation.

During the date of the execution, the elderly will be sent to the hospital. Their the seniors will be killed both swiftly and painlessly. After researching various methods of execution, I have decided that the most humane and cost-efficient course would be having them take a bullet through the head. This is for various reasons. First of all, the brain has no sensory neurons and therefore cannot feel pain. Those killed will feel nothing at all before death. The death is instant, as the brain controls all bodily functions. Once bursted, their bodies will instantly cease to function. A second benefit is that we can easily retrieve the bullets. Therefore, it is possible to reuse the bullets for multiple and if not all of the executions. A bullet ranges in prices, costing as low as a couple cents to under a couple dollars. Regardless, it is way cheaper than say using

lethal injections which cost \$86,08 per shot. The elderly are sure to smile in their deaths, knowing they are saving us so much money.

It should be known that half of healthcare spending is used on only five percent of the population. In 2014, the total spending in healthcare amounted to \$3 trillion, and so half would be \$1.5 trillion. It is easy to visualize how severe their health is for needing to spend so much wealth in order to be treated. But, however good these people may be, using so much wealth in order to support such a small handful of lives, compared to how the wealth could benefit the many poor stricken kids and families across the nation seems laughable. It should be noted that fifteen percent of the population is suffering from poverty and of the youths in America under eighteen, twenty percent experience poverty. On the other hand most of the five percent who receive fifty percent of healthcare expenditures are elderly. In most cases these elders die within a month or a year after treatment. Even if the treatment were successful, keep in mind they are in the last length of their lives anyways. Looking at it practically, we are wasting money on lost causes. Forty percent of the patients in hospitals across America are over the age of sixty-five. However, that age group only consists of fourteen percent of America's population. As said earlier, the elderly are more susceptible to being ill and diseased as their immune system is weaker. Not only that, they are more vulnerable to chronic diseases meaning that they'll often have longer stays in the hospital, and treatment of chronic diseases are often more costly as well. These patients thus produce a huge toll on the healthcare system. Needing to provide for the vast amount of elders, who often have very serious diseases or conditions, and who continue to return for treatment creates a large hole in healthcare spending. By eliminating these seniors, we save a large sum of money that can be invested in more important matters such as poverty, infrastructure, education etc.

There is also a second benefit in this. All those killed through "the Execution" are required to sign as organ donors. After being executed, their organs will be preserved and donated to hospitals. One organ donor alone saves up to 8 lives along with the possibility of improving the lives of up to 50 others. More than 121,000 Americans are currently on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. There are currently about 45,225,319 elders. Right from our initial execution, we will already be resolving the issue of lack of organ donors for decades to come. Since we'll have a major surplus of organs, we can ship them across the globe to save the lives of countless others. After removing the transplantable organs I also proposed we donate the leftover carcasses to kids in Africa. Everyday, we see ads sponsored by foundations who seek donations in order to relieve the widespread hunger epidemic in Africa. I have seen a program on national geography regarding African tribes that practice cannibalism. By giving them the carcasses, we not only relieve their hunger, we also avoid overfilling our graveyards. Land is a precious resource, and by donating the carcasses, we save further money from unnecessary burial ceremonies, having to empty land for graveyards, and wasting money on building fancy caskets.

Another benefit of eliminating the elderly is that we also save money we would waste on them through social security benefits. The median social security benefit in 2012 was found to be \$16,295 for men and \$11,999 for women over the age of sixty-five. This averages to \$14,147. (By using median statistics instead of mean/average, we avoid major skews due to possible extremities of the data) 14% of American population is over 65 years of age with 9 out of 10 of them receiving social security benefits. According to the United States census bureau, the current population of America is 323,037,994 people (as of 2/21/2016 1:10 P.M.). Based on these numbers about 4,070,278 elderly receive social security benefits. That is about \$57,582,223,490 dollars going down the drain. These dollars are being wasted on sustaining the elderly, which is actually sustaining their suffering. Now, the money can go towards a better cause, such as being split among the poor or being used in other federal expenditures. We also have to distribute the savings in the retirement plans of the elderly. Every IRA account will be confiscated before the elder's execution to be either distributed among households nationally or used towards federal expenditures. The average IRA account of those between 60 to 64 and those between 65 to 69 are respectively \$165,139 and \$212,812. This averages to about \$188,956 in each account. In order to continue this cycle, workers will still have to invest into an IRA account. But now, instead of saving for the purpose of retiring, they are saving for the purpose of helping the entire nation. When comparing the two, the latter seems much more appealing. Rather than saving for oneself, true Americans would embrace the idea of conserving wealth for the well-being of the entire nation. Also, material wealth could be then donated or liquidated for further distribution, unless their spouse is still not of execution age.

As of January 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics about 8,543,000 workers in the U.S. were over the age of 65 and according to the RI Department of Labor and Training there are about 158,335,000 people presently in the workforce. With the current unemployment rate of 5%, if we eliminate the number of elders in the workforce, we are left with 149,792,000 workers. The latest rate of unemployment recorded was about 5%, and 5% of 149,792,000 leaves us with 7,489,600 members of the workforce unemployed. Therefore, after "the Elimination" we'll have a surplus of jobs compared to those unemployed. Note that the workforce doesn't include depressed workers. A surplus of work will attract depressed workers back to the workforce. Not only will the workforce grow, and unemployment decrease, America's economic productivity will also increase. This is because jobs once held by the slow and handicapped elderly will become filled with younger workers, who are more diligent, energetic and up to date with modern technology. The crisis of college students not being able to find work after graduating will be lessened or even resolved after "the Elimination." America will enter an age of economic progression never seen before.

Some may question the morality of my plans saying such blasphemy like "taking lives are immoral." As a religious man, I have weighed this idea and firmly believe that sacrificing the life of a single human, who has already enjoyed considerable years of living, in order to save and benefit the lives of countless Americans, the dying patients waiting for organs, and the kids in

Africa who suffer from hunger to be entirely worthwhile. By sacrificing themselves for so many lives, I am sure that those executed will be filling their karmic banks the brim. With so much karma, they are almost assured to ascend to heaven, or be reincarnated as a prince in their next life, depending on their religious beliefs. With such prospects, why would they continue to suffer themselves and cause others to suffer when they could sacrifice themselves to help others and climb the stairway of heaven, reuniting with their lost loved ones and enjoying. Surely anyone who disagrees with the plan is a wicked and selfish being, who does not care for anyone but themselves.

In order to resolve the economic crisis and healthcare problems we face today, this is the only option left to take, if we seek to improve the nation. Our government has decided that we shouldn't tax the rich too highly even though the top one percent hold half the nation's wealth, and that we should focus our taxes to fund global matters such as the war in the Middle East rather than answer the cries and resolve the problems America faces at home. I am sure they are acting for the best of America. Therefore, in order to resolve the economic crisis and healthcare problems we face today, this is the only option left to take, if we seek to improve the nation. It is up to the people to decide.