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As [The Guardian](#) notes this morning:

*Ministers are scrambling to avoid a damaging rebellion this summer when MPs vote on controversial cuts to disability benefit payments, even offering potential rebels the chance to miss the vote altogether.*

*The government is due to hold a vote in June and dozens of Labour MPs are worried it will hurt their constituents and could cost them their seats.*

*Possible solutions include allowing backbenchers to abstain – a major climbdown from earlier votes, when rebels were disciplined or suspended from the party.*

Note a number of things.

First, the concern is not about the policy.

Nor is it about the signal these rebellious MPs are sending that suggests there might be something horribly wrong with penalising the least well off in our society so that Rachel Reeves might have a chance of making her self-imposed fiscal rule work.

Neither is the concern for those who might suffer.

Rather it is about imposing party discipline, and maintaining an appearance of unity when imposing callous policy with decided aforethought.

The appearance of the Labour Party is all that matters.

Of course, this could be poor or even biased journalism. But the Guardian still, rather bizarrely, appears to sympathise with Labour, so that seems unlikely.

In that case we have to assume that millions of people, families and children who will suffer as a consequence of Labour minister's contempt for them are just, in the opinion of Morgan McSweeney, Labour's chief of staff and power behind Starmer, collateral damage of little concern in the games that he plays, all with the apparent intention of fuelling inequality in the UK.

How can anyone be so indifferent?