



Legislative Brief

OCTOBER 17, 2017

THREE GOP SENATORS SAVED MILLIONS OF AMERICANS' MEDICAID HEALTHCARE!

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan both came out against passing a bill to replace the Affordable Care Act without any help from the Democratic members. Republicans had until Sept. 30th to pass new legislation under a budget procedure that allows the Senate to pass bills with a 51 vote majority, rather than the normal 60 vote threshold that most Senate bills requires. The Senate has 52 Republicans and 48 Democrats.

It appears that McConnell was intent on getting even with the democrats for passing the Affordable Care Act with very little input from the Republicans.

It appears that McConnell's intent on getting even may have been a mistake. Millions of voters who signed up for Medicaid Expansion similar to the Ohio program that Gov. John Kasich began for over 700,000 citizens, were very vocal when their Congresspersons returned home for the fall break.

In a last ditch effort, Senator Graham from South Carolina and Senator Cassidy of Louisiana introduced a bill that retained the taxes that paid for the Affordable Care Act, but would end within 3 years the Medicaid Expansion Program. In its place would be federal grants to states that likely would not be enough to cover all those who were previously covered by the Affordable Care Act.

Governor Kasich pushed for a bipartisan bill created by Democrat Patty Murray from Washington and Republican Lamar Alexander from Tennessee to strengthen the present insurance markets in all the states that already have the Medicaid Expansion program.

Teresa Miller, the Insurance Commissioner from Pennsylvania said, "The Graham -Cassidy plan was poorly designed" and "would create chaos in our health care system by stripping funding that states have come to rely on."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

(Matthew 10:1 NRSV)

MOST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD BELIEVE THAT HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CITIZENS SHOULD BE MANDATORY FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD!

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With only 52 GOP Senators, they couldn't pass the bill if they lost 3 Votes. Rand Paul opposed all health care bills paid for by the Federal Government. Susan Collins from Maine said 'No' because the number of people who would be covered would be reduced by millions. The Center For Community Solutions did a study of the proposal. Ohio's funds would be reduced between \$19 and \$25.6 billion between 2019 and 2025.

Estimates suggest that by 2027, upwards of 32 million Americans would lose coverage. The bill punishes states like Ohio that have successfully insured more residents through the Affordable Care Act market place and Medicaid Expansion, which covers 700,000 Ohioans. It also cuts the marketplace tax credits and subsidies that help Ohioans afford coverage. Instead the Graham-Cassidy offers block grants that disappear in 2022. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that Graham-Cassidy would cut Ohio's federal funding for health coverage by \$2.6 billion. The bill allows states to waive the ACA rule against charging people higher premiums to those who have pre-existing conditions. The bill would bar states from reimbursing Planned Parenthood for preventive health care and family planning services for people in Medicaid. Due to the aging population and Ohio's drug crisis, Ohio's costs are especially likely to skyrocket.

The third Senator that made it known he is voting 'No' was Senator John McCain of Arizona. As many are aware, Senator McCain is himself fighting a battle with brain cancer and understands the cost of health care to many families. He said, "He could not in good conscience" back the measure co-sponsored by his close friend, Lindsey Graham. Instead, the Arizona Senator praised the work of colleagues working on a solution involving both parties. "I hope they will resume their work

should this last attempt at a partisan solution (Graham-Cassidy) fail." McCain said in his statement, "We should not be content to pass health care legislation on a party-line basis, as Democrats did when they rammed Obamacare through Congress in 2009."

Republicans were unable to pass the bill because of the 'No' votes. Senator Sherrod Brown said, "Senate Democrats were ready to support the bipartisan measure offered by Alexander and Murray. I think it would have been overwhelmingly passed."

Ohio Governor John Kasich and several of his colleagues from both parties are also pushing for a compromise they say would stabilize insurance markets and continue necessary subsidies until a more permanent fix can be achieved.

Jimmy Kimmel, late-night television host, delivered a tearful monologue about his new-born son who had to undergo surgery to repair a congenital heart defect, acknowledging how lucky his family was that they could afford it. He emphasized how important it is for lower and middle-class families to have comprehensive insurance coverage with protections for people with pre-existing conditions. "No parent should have to decide if they can afford to save their child's life. It shouldn't happen! Senator Cassidy called and talked to Jimmy about the need to create a bill that would pass the "Jimmy Kimmel test."

. Cassidy assured Kimmel—and per the transitive property of late-night television, the American public--that he would work to create a healthcare bill that would pass the test. He said he wants coverage for all, no pre-existing conditions, lower premiums for middle-class families and no lifetime caps. Kimmel paused, "Guess what? The new bill does none of those things. He lied to us!"