

Ways and Means Republicans Release Legislation to Repeal and Replace Obamacare

Legislation Includes Policies Proposed By President Trump to Deliver 21st Century, Patient-Centered Health Care System

MARCH 6, 2017 — PRESS RELEASES

Today, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) released legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare through a budget process known as reconciliation. The legislation, part of House Republicans' *American Health Care Act*, delivers relief from Obamacare's taxes and mandates and advances policies proposed by President Trump to enhance and expand health savings accounts and provide tax credits to help Americans access quality, affordable health care.

The Ways and Means Committee has scheduled a markup of this legislation on Wednesday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m., in room 1100 of the Longworth House Office Building.

Upon releasing the legislation, Chairman Brady said:

"Today House Republicans are answering President Trump's call to action with legislation to repeal this failing law and help ensure workers and families in Texas and across the country have access to health care that's tailored to their needs—not health care that's dictated by Washington.

"Seven years ago, Obamacare put Washington in control of Americans' health care. And for seven years, Washington has been failing to deliver results. Families can't afford their premiums, patients can't visit the doctor they like, and fewer insurers are offering coverage options every day. With President Trump, House Republicans are taking a stand.

"Our legislation transfers power from Washington back to the American people. We dismantle Obamacare's damaging taxes and mandates so states

can deliver quality, affordable options based on what their patient populations need, and workers and families can have the freedom and flexibility to make their own health care choices.

“I’m proud to be moving this important legislation forward with my colleagues and look forward to delivering on our promises to the American people.”

BACKGROUND:

More than eight months ago, House Republicans unveiled [A Better Way](#), our vision for repealing Obamacare and replacing it with a patient-centered, 21st century health care system.

On [January 13](#), the House passed a budget resolution to begin turning that vision into legislation through reconciliation—a process that allows legislation to be passed with a simple majority in the Senate and quickly signed into law.

The budget resolution outlined specific instructions for the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees—the primary Committees with jurisdiction over health care—to draft legislative recommendations that the Budget Committee could compile into one reconciliation package.

When combined with the legislation released by Energy and Commerce, the *American Health Care Act* is expected to meet those instructions. Specifically, the Ways and Means legislation:

- **Dismantles Obamacare taxes and mandates**—including the individual and employer mandate penalties and taxes on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, health insurance premiums, and medical devices.
- **Empowers individuals and families** to spend their health care dollars the way they want and need by enhancing and expanding Health Savings Accounts (HSAs).
- **Helps Americans access affordable, quality health care** by providing a monthly tax credit to individuals and families who don’t receive insurance through work or a government program.

Energy and Commerce Republicans Release Legislation to Repeal and Replace Obamacare

Mar 6, 2017

[Press Release](#)

A Full Committee Markup of This Legislation is Scheduled for Wednesday, March 8th

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) released legislation as part of House Republicans effort to repeal and replace Obamacare through a budget process known as reconciliation. The legislation, part of House Republicans' *American Health Care Act*, creates a new and innovative Patient and State Stability Fund to help low-income Americans afford health care and to repair the damage done to state insurance markets by Obamacare. Additionally, the legislation lays out a plan to responsibly unwind Obamacare's Medicaid expansion while prioritizing the program's funds to the most vulnerable through a per capita allotment.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has scheduled a markup of this legislation on Wednesday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m., in room 2123 of Rayburn House Office Building.

Upon releasing the legislation, **Chairman Walden said:**

"After years of Obamacare's broken promises, House Republicans today took an important step. We've spent the last eight years listening to folks across this country, and today we're proud to put forth a plan that reflects eight years' worth of those conversations with families, patients, and doctors. Simply put, we have a Better Way to deliver solutions that put patients – not bureaucrats – first, and we are moving forward united in our efforts to rescue the American people from the mess Obamacare has created.

"With today's legislation, we return power back to the states - strengthening Medicaid and prioritizing our nation's most vulnerable. We provide the American people with what they've asked for: greater choice, lower cost, and flexibility to choose the plan that best suits their needs. Today is just the first step in helping families across this country obtain truly affordable health care, and we're eager to get this rescue mission started."

BACKGROUND:

More than eight months ago, House Republicans unveiled [A Better Way](#), our vision for repealing Obamacare and replacing it with a patient-centered, 21st century health care system.

On January 13, the House passed a budget resolution to begin turning that vision into legislation through reconciliation—a process that allows legislation to be passed with a simple majority in the Senate and quickly signed into law.

The budget resolution outlined specific instructions for the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees—the primary committees with jurisdiction over health care—to draft legislative recommendations that the Budget Committee could compile into one reconciliation package.

When combined with the legislation released by Ways and Means, the legislation Energy and Commerce released today meets those instructions.

Specifically, the Energy and Commerce legislation:

- **Creates a Patient and State Stability Fund** – This new and innovative fund give states broad flexibility to design programs that best serve their unique populations. They can also use funds to increase access to preventative services.
- **Responsibly unwinds Obamacare's Medicaid expansion** – By freezing new enrollment after 2 years and grandfathering in current enrollees, we protect patients and offer a stable transition.
- **Strengthens Medicaid** – Using a per capita allotment, our legislation ensures a fair funding formula for states while creating a viable financial future for the program.

The American Health Care Act- Fact Sheet

House Republicans Deliver on President Trump's Health Care Promise Obamacare is hurting more people than it is helping, forcing Americans to buy insurance they don't like, don't need, and cannot afford.

- Premiums have increased by an average of 25 percent this year.
- Nearly 1/3 of all U.S. counties have only one insurer offering plans on their state's exchange.
- 34 percent fewer doctors and other health care providers accept Obamacare insurance compared to private insurance. President Trump called on Congress to “act decisively” to rescue Americans from this failing law, and House Republicans are answering his call. More than eight months ago, we outlined our vision for repealing and replacing Obamacare in A Better Way. Since then, we have been talking with our constituents and colleagues about how to turn these solutions into policies that will improve lives. Now, House Republicans are moving forward with fiscally responsible legislation to deliver relief from Obamacare's taxes and mandates and lay the groundwork for a 21st century health care system.

Specifically, the primary Committees with jurisdiction over health care—Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce—have released the American Health Care Act—legislation that not only repeals the law, but replaces it with reforms President Trump laid out. Taken together, here's what the American Health Care Act will do: DELIVER RELIEF

- Dismantle the Obamacare taxes that have hurt job creators, increased premium costs, and limited options for patients and health care providers— including taxes on prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, healthinsurance premiums, and medical devices. 2

- Eliminate the individual and employer mandate penalties, which forced millions of workers, families, and job creators into expensive, inadequate Obamacare plans that they don't want and cannot afford.

PRESERVE VITAL PATIENT PROTECTIONS

- Prohibit health insurers from denying coverage or charging more money to patients based on pre-existing conditions.

- Help young adults access health insurance and stabilize the marketplace by allowing dependents to continue staying on their parents' plan until they are 26. ADVANCE 21ST CENTURY REFORMS PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT TRUMP

- Establish a Patient and State Stability Fund, which provides states with \$100 billion to design programs that meet the unique needs of their patient populations and help low-income Americans afford health care.

- Modernize and strengthen Medicaid by transitioning to a "per capita allotment" so states can better serve the patients most in need.

- Empower individuals and families to spend their health care dollars the way they want and need by enhancing and expanding Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)—nearly doubling the amount of money people can contribute and broadening how people can use it.

- Help Americans access affordable, quality health care by providing a monthly tax credit—between \$2,000 and \$14,000 a year—for low- and middle-income individuals and families who don't receive insurance through work or a government program. As President Trump said during his Joint Address, "Action is not a choice—it is a necessity." House Republicans are taking action this month to provide relief and deliver patient-centered health care.