



Unions Lobby Obama's Health Care Plan

July 26, 2013

When it came to selling the affordable care act to the American people, unions played a pivotal role - lobbying for it in Washington and preaching its benefits nationwide.

Now it turns out, many of those unions have a bad case of buyers remorse.

They were one of the most vocal sales people of President Obama's signature healthcare law.

"If you like your doctor or healthcare plan you can keep it."

Three major labor unions now say that promise is now under threat.

In a letter to senate majority leader Harry Reid and house minority leader Nancy Pelosi, leaders from the Teamsters Union, United Food and Commercial workers and unite here, say instead what lays ahead are nightmare scenarios, with employers now incentivized to cut workers hours and in turn their pay and their benefits.

"The roofers union also sent a letter saying as is, the affordable care act puts health plans at risk, could cause a loss of work and bring an unfair bidding advantage to contractors."

Michael Tanner is a senior fellow of the Cato Institute.

"They maybe should have thought of this before they spent millions of dollars and countless man-hours advocating in favor of the legislation they're now concerned about," Tanner said.

While union leaders have not been speaking to the media, their concerns give new momentum to republicans who just last week voted to delay the employer and individual mandates.Rep.

"These two bills will ensure that fairness is applied to employers and employees as well as families and individuals While democrats called them gotcha votes," said Dave Camp (R-MI).

"This bill and the other bill are not real. They are purely partisan politics," said Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD).

But with labor unions - who strongly supported the health care law, now standing against it, Tanner says that could be a true sign that issues with Obamacare will continue to be wrestled with for at least another year.

"You've got some democrats in marginal districts that are going to be very worried and I think this is going to be a very big issue in next year's election," Tanner said.