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Obamacare no better than it was last year

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One year ago today, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law.

But this was no ordinary bill.

Before Obamacare cleared Congress, voters in Massachusetts elected a Republican to the U.S. Senate in the hope of stopping it. Thirty-eight states had introduced, and two states had enacted, legislation to block it. In the year since, three additional states have enacted laws and two states have amended their constitutions to block it.

Twenty-eight states have filed suit in federal court alleging the law violates the Constitution, half of them within hours of the signing ceremony. Individual citizens have filed another two-dozen challenges. Many of these lawsuits are frivolous, but not all are: Two federal courts have struck down all or part of the law as unconstitutional.

Opposition to the law contributed heavily to sweeping Republican gains in the 2010 elections. The House quickly voted to repeal it. Twenty-one governors have threatened not to implement it. At least four states have frozen, returned or refused the federal funds it offers. Two governors have flatly refused to implement it.

Despite assurances that Americans would like the law once they found out what is in it, familiarity has bred contempt.

This isn't how it was supposed to happen. What's going on?

It's not just partisanship. For one thing, 34 House Democrats voted against final passage, three voted for repeal, and many are open to rescinding specific provisions.

Many Americans believe Obamacare claims a power Congress should not and does not have.

A government that can make us purchase health insurance can make us buy cars or broccoli.

Others see it as a barrier to better, more affordable health care.

Many believe the law is overkill. Many are taking this law personally.

The president promised he would "put an end to the game-playing," but then made backroom deals.

First the individual mandate was a tax, then it wasn't, then it was. At a certain point, people start to feel insulted.

Newt Gingrich predicts Congress will repeal Obamacare in 2013. Agree or not, you have to be struck by how plausible his prediction is.

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