

# Click Lancashire

## Independent News

### Local officials react to defeat of GOP health care plan

Elias Hubbard

March 27, 2017

President Donald Trump demanded Thursday that Congress vote on repealing and replacing Obamacare Friday, [reports NBC News](#). To that, Spicer [said](#): "I think if you're an older man, you probably won't need [maternity coverage](#)".

She says almost 75 percent of Texas's Medicaid patients are children.

“ In California, were not talking about a few thousand – were talking about millions of real people getting hurt – getting diseases that will not be cured – having heart attacks, not being able to go to a hospital or get a doctor, ” the governor said in his prepared remarks.

We can not expect children to learn and grow into healthy, productive adults who are capable of succeeding in the 21st century economy if we don't provide them with the necessary tools to be healthy children.

Conservative House Republicans want to exclude the rule from any replacement, arguing it drives up cost and stifles consumer choice.

"This is our opportunity to do it", White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Friday. "Part of the reason that premiums have spiked out of control is because under Obamacare, there were these mandated services that had to be included", Spicer [told](#) reporters.

The House's GOP leaders announced that they were postponing a vote on the legislation that had been scheduled for Thursday evening because they lacked enough support to pass it. "It's a bad deal for the American people". "Tomorrow we prepare for the fight to come", he added. When asked if he had the votes, Ryan didn't answer and walked briskly away from the press corps. The Affordable Care Act allowed the government assistance program called Medi-Cal to expand, allowing *more* people to qualify.

The GOP's plan, according to the Congressional Budget Office, would result in 52 million people without health insurance within the next decade, compared to the 28 million that would have remained uninsured under Obamacare.

Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Arizona, is seeing some success toward passage of his own health care bill requiring health insurance companies to strictly abide by anti-trust laws, specifically prohibiting

them from sharing information and cooperating with one another on rate decisions. A HealthNet plan didn't cover outpatient rehabilitative services.

When we consider what Obamacare replacement options are feasible, cost-containing and guarantee basic health care for all, Medicaid expansion is the best option for accomplishing these goals with bipartisan support.

"If the Freedom Caucus is going to stand up tonight and say they voted for the bill because taking essential health benefits out is going to make health insurance a lot cheaper, they are dead wrong", Laszewski said. And because the initial Republican bill left the door open for states to expand Medicaid before 2020, he anxious *more* states would do that to get in on the deal. That way the sickest consumers wouldn't even bother to apply.

Yet Robert Laszewski, an insurance industry consultant, said removing the essential health benefit requirements alone won't do much to bring down costs. "We saw people even here, a relatively low Medicaid population, people coming into the system who previously didn't engage in the health care system because suddenly they had some kind of insurance. our uncompensated care [halved] to three to four percent".

Michael Cannon, an analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute and longtime Obamacare opponent, also believes that dumping essential benefits while forcing insurers to accept all applicants at one "community" price would weaken coverage for chronically ill people.

That describes the risk Samuel Hedgepeth says he would face if he lost his mental health and addiction coverage. And they would offer strong incentives to encourage preventive care. He and his spokesman, Sean Spicer, have repeated interminably their campaign rhetoric: Obamacare is a mess, it is collapsing, it needs to be repealed and replaced. In addition, removing the essential benefits requirement would essentially neuter the ACA's ban on insurers setting annual and lifetime caps on benefits, since they could set limits on services that are not required benefits.