

What's the Score? CBO Releases Analysis on GOP's ObamaCare Repeal Bill

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"The CBO concedes that the American Health Care Act would actually reduce the deficit by over \$330 billion and bring health insurance *premiums* down 10 percent", Spicer said, adding that this will happen even before numerous reforms in prongs two and three take effect.

Just over 28 million Americans were uninsured in the first half of 2016, according to the latest data from the Census Bureau.

"The House bill to repeal and replace Obamacare will provide you and *your* fellow citizens with more choices - far *more* choices - at lower cost", Trump said at a White House meeting with people opposed to Democratic former President Barack Obama's 2010 healthcare restructuring law.

"*Most* of that increase would stem from repealing the penalties associated with the individual mandate".

The Affordable Care Act isn't flawless, and it was *never* meant to solve all the ills of America's health care system, but it was a huge step toward providing *more* coverage to those that didn't have insurance and *more* protections and benefits for those that did. These include allowing children to remain on a parent's health plan until they turn 26, and not allowing insurers to deny coverage to people with pre-existing health problems.

Now that the CBO estimates have been made public, some Republicans are hesitant to support Trumpcare in its current form.

The House GOP bill proposes scrapping the enhanced federal funding for Medicaid expansion in 2020 and overhauls the *entire* program so that *states* receive a fixed amount of money per enrollee. "Republican legislators will now be forced to answer questions about why tens of millions of Americans will lose coverage and how those people will fare under the new system".

While the number of uninsured Americans would immediately climb, the trajectory for *premiums* is *more* complicated. Some individuals would *choose* not to buy insurance given that freedom, while others will forgo insurance because of higher premiums, the CBO report says.

The annual *premium* for a 21-year-old would be \$5,100 under Obamacare, but only \$3,900 under the GOP plan. Access to quality, affordable care will improve.

Finally, it's important to look beyond what *premiums* will do.

Essentially, "a full repeal would cover *more* people than ObamaCare-Lite", Michael F. Cannon, director of health policy studies at the libertarian CATO institute, concludes from the CBO report.

While on average *premiums* are expected to eventually be 10 percent lower, the impact on different groups of people would be wide ranging.

"Once it does, it's going to be a thing of beauty", Trump said. We're talking \$337 billion over 10 years, that's \$33.7 billion a year. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), a physician who previously offered a replacement bill for the Affordable Care Act, said. Again, this is necessary because Senate rules limit what can be passed in a "budget reconciliation" bill. Speaking on *Fox News'* "Special Report with Brett Baier", Ryan said Monday's projections "exceeded my expectations".