

# Normangee Star

## What Are the Implications for Medicare of the American Health Care Act?

Madeline Patrick

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Some might dismiss this as Sanders' typical firebrand rhetoric, but Vermont's Republican Governor Phil Scott also has misgivings about the plan working its way through Congress at warp speed. But although the new bill continues to make its way through the House, it remains intensely controversial among both Democrats and Republicans. But every credible analysis of the original GOP plan says it would be very hard on older Americans and low-income people.

Iowa Congressman David Young says he doesn't support or oppose the Republican replacement to the Affordable Care Act.

"This is due to a combination of growth in the uninsured population and caps on federal Medicaid spending", the rating agency said.

Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank in Washington, D.C., explained to TheBlaze that having bipartisan support on health care legislation would mostly produce negative outcomes.

Another major difference is the tax credits. Old fashioned, static analysis does not result in accurate estimates. Many people, particularly those who did not qualify for subsidies, complained that coverage was unaffordable. Yes, repeal will cause Americans to go through changes, but Obamacare changed people's lives for the worse, from prices to coverage to choices about care. People are sicker than insurance companies in the individual marketplace anticipated.

The plan would leave buyers with less money to purchase insurance in the Healthcare Marketplace. Right now, there are not enough backers to get the bill out of the House of Representatives. This hugely benefits households with incomes of \$1 million a year or more. Only \$2.5 million of that was deductible under Obamacare tax laws. Ted Cruz has championed, most likely would run afoul of another part of the Byrd rule, which requires that provisions in reconciliation legislation must be germane to the budget.

In addition, the GOP plan would eliminate the requirement for Americans to purchase insurance, although they would have to pay a 30 percent penalty on premiums for a year if they go more than two months without coverage.

House conservatives say they are negotiating some changes directly with the White House, cutting out House GOP leaders, while rebellious GOP senators were stoking the opposition.

“The easiest thing would be to let it implode in ’17 and believe me, we’d get pretty much whatever we wanted”, Trump said at a January press conference. He has since repeated the do-nothing argument several times.

“We have done a good job of closing that gap”. To his credit, one of Donald Trump’s first acts as the new President was to repeal Obamacare, which helped to lift penalties off Americans.

The defunding of Planned Parenthood is also a sticking point for the state.

“Women’s health care is a priority for the governor”, Vermont Human Services Secretary Al Gobeille told reporters at the briefing. “This bill as proposed doesn’t help that”.

There is growing pressure on House Republican leaders to pass a revised version of the bill that includes repeal of numerous ACA’s insurance market regulations, such as the minimum essential benefits requirement.

Voters who supported Trump consider the GOP plan an improvement over Obamacare, but are less than unanimous — and not especially enthusiastic.

Another relevant angle to the health care debate: “The Republican healthcare plan could signal the beginning of the end for employer-based healthcare insurance, a perk that millions of Americans take for granted”. Instead, they showed their true colors.