



House pulls health care bill, despite threats by Trump

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It was an 11th-hour decision; at the time the country was watching and waiting for a vote to "repeal and replace" the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives and President Donald Trump decided to pull the bill.

The decision comes amid tough talk by Trump, who told lawmakers they could risk losing their seats in 2018 if they voted no.

Despite being called out by name to get in line, Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., said this about the president: "I have nothing but the utmost respect for his willingness and ability to close a deal. This is what he's done all his life and who am I to challenge these tactics?"

During the election, presidential candidates who challenged Trump fell, one by one.

And despite a Trump tweet directed at House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., during the campaign, with health care Trump and Ryan are side by side.

However, some health policy experts say voting for the bill and having it pass would have been a fate even worse for Republican lawmakers.

"If Republicans pass this bill, they will be blamed for all the damage that these Obamacare provisions do this year, next year, and for years to come," said Michael Cannon, director of health policy with the Libertarian Cato Institute.

Cannon had been an outspoken critic of the bill and said there would have been a bigger threat than Trump.

“Politicians are risk-averse; they’re even more afraid of their constituents coming to town hall meetings and saying, ‘Your bill, because of your bill, my daughter can’t get the drugs that she needs,’” Cannon said.