MarketWatch

5 reasons why Republicans can't pass an Obamacare repeal |Trump's steel push hits opposition

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With Senate Republicans abandoning their plan to replace much of the Affordable Care Act, they are planning to vote on repeal instead. But there are five reasons they may not succeed, <u>Politico</u> writes.

Among them are the newfound popularity of Medicaid, which Republicans would cut, and the pressure Republicans have faced at town-hall meetings. Weeks before Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran made his opposition official, he faced constituents pleading with him not to repeal Obamacare — in conservative Kansas. Another reason, writes Politico, is the abysmal ratings in polls for the Obamacare repeal effort.

President Donald Trump, meanwhile, was tweeting about the effort to repeal Obamacare early Tuesday, saying backers were "let down" by Democrats and even "a few Republicans" he did not name. "Stay tuned!" he said.

We were let down by all of the Democrats and a few Republicans. Most Republicans were loyal, terrific & worked really hard. We will return!

As I have always said, let ObamaCare fail and then come together and do a great healthcare plan. Stay tuned!

Opposition for Trump's steel push: With President Donald Trump considering a crackdown on imported steel, the move is running into increased opposition. Last week, former heads of the White House Council of Economic Advisers told Trump not to impose tariffs on steel, and the Hill has comments Tuesday from more economists.

"Not only would additional steel import restrictions under the guise of a national security imperative be economic self-flagellation, which inspires retaliation from our trade partners against U.S. exporters in other sectors, but it would constitute a major blow to the rules-based trading system," said Dan Ikenson, head of the libertarian Cato Institute.

Read: Trump would further damage U.S. manufacturing if he restricts steel imports

Fact-checking Trump on signing bills: President Trump repeatedly boasts of the number of bills he has signed — 42 as of this week. On Monday, writes the New York Times, he said he'd bested all of his predecessors in turning bills into law. "We've signed more bills — and I'm

talking about through the legislature — than any president, ever," he said at a White House "Made in America" event.

But the Times writes that as Trump approaches six months in office on Thursday, he is slightly behind the lawmaking pace for the past six presidents, who as a group signed an average of 43 bills during the same period.