



Thursday, January 30, 2014

## **Obama's State of the Union Health Care Remarks**

by Sara Hansard

While President Barack Obama staunchly supported the Affordable Care Act in his State of the Union address Jan. 28, ACA opponents noted that he didn't get to his signature 2010 law until more than half-way through his one-hour speech, and they argued that his defense of the law was timid.

"He spent about as much time pleading with people to sign up as he did defending the bill," Cato Institute Senior Fellow Michael Tanner told Bloomberg BNA, referring to the president's call for moms to "get on your kids to sign up," and his angry rebuke to congressional Republicans to "not have another 40-something votes to repeal a law that's already helping millions of Americans."

Critics noted that Obama didn't mention the debilitating problems with the HealthCare.gov website during the first two months of open enrollment in October and November, 2013, and they also said his claim that more than 9 million people have enrolled under the ACA is misleading since it includes people who were previously insured or have been enrolled in Medicaid.

But ACA supporter Timothy Jost, a professor at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Va., and a consumer liaison to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, said he was "glad" that the president talked about the law "unapologetically."