



Supporters of new healthcare bill touting benefits to taxpayers

Kristine Frazao

May 5, 2017

On the White House lawn Thursday afternoon, it was a celebration usually reserved for a done deal, with House Republicans touting the benefits of the new healthcare bill.

“What we have is something very, very, incredibly well-crafted,” President Trump said.

Speaker of the House Paul Ryan called it “a better, more patient-centered system.”

Others are calling it a win for taxpayers — after groups like Americans for Tax Reform posted multiple cuts the new bill includes.

“For taxpayers what you’re going to see is a significant decline in the taxes that were in with the Affordable Care Act — a trillion dollars over 10 years in new taxes in the Affordable Care Act — those are being eliminated,” said Michael Tanner, a senior fellow with the Libertarian Cato Institute in Washington. Tanner said other winners include individuals and small businesses.

“The mandate that says everyone has to purchase a specific government designed insurance plan or that small businesses have to offer all their employees insurance coverage - those things were very costly to businesses,” Tanner said in an interview Friday.

The new American Health Care Act (ACHA), which barely passed the House, would repeal Obamacare subsidies for lower-income Americans, eliminate individual and employer mandates, end Medicaid expansion money starting in 2020, eliminate Obamacare taxes on the wealthy and insurers and weaken guaranteed protections for people with pre-existing conditions. It’s a fact democrats are pouncing on.

“Well yeah, we’ll cover pre-existing conditions so long as we’re at liberty to jack up your premium to unaffordable levels. That’s what we had before,” said Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) in a sarcastic tone.

But Democrats are not necessarily the biggest concern for supporters of the new healthcare bill. Republicans in the Senate are making it clear they plan to take their time and their version will look a lot different.

“I don't think that the House bill necessarily predicts what is in the Senate bill and we have only 52 Senators, so there has to be a consensus,” said Sen. Bill Cassidy (R - La.).