Cato: Trump needs to push GOP for ObamaCare repeal

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"I think that Congress should be politically horsewhipped if they don't repeal Obamacare in full," complains Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies for the Cato Institute. "That is what voters have been asking them to do for seven years."

Cannon was responding to the colorful phrasing of U.S. Sen. Lindsay Graham, who told Fox News that senators deserve to be "horsewhipped,"politically speaking, if they fail to pass legislation.

Graham has offered what is being called a back-up plan to the GOP health care bill. He told Fox News the idea is to "block grant" ObamaCare funds to the states.

"That ends single payer health care," he predicted.

The argument for a state-based decision, Graham also said, is that government closest to the people is the best government, and health care closest to the people is the best health care.

Responding to Graham's call for action, Cannon tells OneNewsNow that Republican lawmakers, including President Donald Trump, have been promising to repeal ObamaCare.

Trump himself needs to be more active and talkative, says Cannon, citing a Cato analysis that found Trump has included health care policy in 10 speeches since January. Barack Obama mentioned health care 150 times during the first six months of his term.

"There has to be a sustained campaign," says Cannon, "to push the reluctant members of Congress to do what they pledged to do, which is full repeal."

Asked to analyze Graham's own health care bill, Cannon warns that it's not a repeal bill despite the senator's claims.

"It might be an improvement over ObamaCare," says the health policy analyst, "but it would leave in place all of the ObamaCare regulations that have destabilized the individual market and the regulations that are causing insurers to leave counties and exchanges."

Put another way, he says, the federal government admits it's wrecking the health insurance markets and is telling the states to clean up the mess.