

DONTCARE Community Comment: March 9, 2017 Mike Goldsby

The Republican Healthcare plan is here. The official name is THE AMERICAN HEALTHCARE ACT. Boring. Nobody is going to call it that. Conservatives are calling it “RHINOCARE”, Republican in name only. Or “Obamacare Lite”, because it does not go far enough. I think the name should honor our new President. So I suggest abbreviating Donald Trump CARE. Let’s call it **DON T. CARE.**

The President wants a speedy passage of the new bill and is already threatening any Republicans who do not support it. That would release a Twitterstorm from the Boss. But this approval is before we even know what it is going to cost. No dollar estimates have yet been provided by the Congressional Budget Office.
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Nonpartisan congressional budget analysts estimate the bill would cause millions of Americans to lose their health insurance coverage almost immediately.

The *New Yorker’s* John Cassidy writes “Back in January, Donald Trump promised that the replacement for Obamacare would provide ‘insurance for everybody.’ By endorsing this bill, Trump has broken his pledge.”

Cassidy explains “The bill aims to take a wrecking ball to the principle of universal coverage. If enacted, millions of Americans would end up without any coverage.”
DONTCARE. Medical debt is the leading cause of personal bankruptcy and unreimbursed care drives up medical costs.

But enough from the Left. Let’s hear from the Right. Edmund Haislmaier is an expert in health care policy at The Heritage Foundation. He writes “The draft bill’s new Patient and State Stability Fund would provide grants to states of up to a total of 100 billion dollars over the next nine years.”

He says, “It substitutes new funding for old Obamacare funding without adequately addressing the misguided Obamacare insurance market rules and subsidy design that made the exchanges a magnet for high-cost patients.”

“And like Obamacare, it doesn’t actually reduce premiums, but rather masks with subsidies the effects of Obamacare provisions that drove up premiums in the first place.”

Geez Edmund, it’s hard to make everybody happy. **DONTCARE.**

It replaces subsidies with tax credits, kinda rough on the poor but a great deal if you have insurance and make a lot of money. It eliminates the Individual mandate to have insurance. On the surface that seems very popular but it can make the risk pool untenable for insurance coverage. We have an insurance mandate for our cars and that works well, in my opinion.

The bill defunds Planned Parenthood. Remember, there is not a line item that says Planned Parenthood. No Federal funds go to Abortion. This simply means that services like birth control counseling and cancer screenings will not be reimbursed. **DONTCARE.**

I hope we get some more information before this bill gets rushed through Congress. Like the price tag.

The Washington Post reports the “margin of error is slim for House and Senate GOP leaders — in the House, Ryan can afford to lose only 21 GOP lawmakers. In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell must persuade all but two Republicans to support the plan. No Democrats are expected to back the overhaul in either chamber.”

This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment.

BACKGROUND

Trump: "The government's gonna pay for it. But we're going to save so much money on the other side. But for the most it's going to be a private plan and people are going to be able to go out and negotiate great plans with lots of different competition with lots of competitors with great companies and they can have their doctors, they can have plans, they can have everything." -- **60 Minutes** [interview with Scott Pelley](#), Sept 27th, 2015