

Concerned about repeal of Obamacare, Springfield protesters rally

Jackie Rehwald, JREHWALD@NEWS-LEADER.COM 5:08 p.m. CT Jan. 17, 2017



(Photo: Submitted photo)

About 30 supporters of the Affordable Care Act rallied at one of the busiest intersections in Springfield Tuesday morning to voice their concerns over Republican lawmakers' plans to repeal the health care law.

The protest began at 8 a.m. and lasted about an hour on the southeast corner of National Avenue and Sunshine Street.

Crystal Brigman Mahaney is deputy director for Missouri Health Care for All (<http://missourihealthcareforall.org/>), the group that organized the protest.

"It was great," Brigman Mahaney said. "We had a lot of honks all around."

Missouri Health Care for All organized a total of seven protests across the state Tuesday morning.

According to Brigman Mahaney, there will be more protests as Republicans move forward with plans to repeal the health care law.

"We want to make sure our congressional leaders hear us and know that we are watching," she said. "We are concerned they are making reckless decisions without hearing from their constituents. This is the sort of drum beat and message we have to keep sharing."

Members of Congress have already begun taking steps to get rid of the law, sometimes referred to as Obamacare. It's not clear what a replacement plan would look like.

The Affordable Care Act does a number of things including providing protections for those with pre-existing conditions and providing subsidies to purchase insurance for those who meet certain income requirements.

Opponents of the law have complained about the mandate that everyone have health insurance and about increasing costs for those who don't qualify for subsidies.

— *USA Today* contributed to this report.



Supporters of the Affordable Care Act rallied at the intersection of Sunshine Street and National Avenue Tuesday morning. (Photo: Submitted photo)

