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Worried Missourians Protest Health Care Vote

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- House Republicans were successful in their second attempt to replace the Affordable Care Act, as the House Thursday passed the American Health Care Act.

This sparked reaction from local groups that oppose this move.

"This is a repeal and replaces of Obamacare, make no mistake," said President Donald Trump as he gathered with Republicans in the White House Rose Garden shortly after the vote to celebrate.

Meanwhile, Missourians who are worried about the future of their health care were protesting that same vote outside of Congressman Billy Long's office in Springfield.

Faith Voices of Southwest Missouri stood in protest Thursday. Missouri Health Care for All also spoke out against this bill.

Republicans supporting it say the current plan had its own problems and it needed to be fixed.

But both groups are disappointed with the vote.

She says, on average, older adults can expect your health insurance to go up by over \$12,000 a year.

"It's going to make it very difficult to have access to care for many people in our nation," said Rev. Phil Snider, a senior minister at Brentwood Christian Church, who joined protesters outside Long's office. ([HTTP://WWW.OZARKSFIRST.COM/WEATHER1](http://www.ozarksfirst.com/weather))

According to the Center for American Progress, a left-leaning political think tank, premiums could go up as much as \$4,000 for asthma coverage, \$5,600 for diabetes, a \$17,000 increase for pregnancy and nearly \$73,000 more for a severe cancer treatment.

"It does nothing for those who are truly in need of help," said Rev. Snider.

But President Trump said that won't be the case.

"Premiums will be coming down," he said.

Congressman Billy Long first opposed the bill but changed his mind after an amendment that added \$8 billion to ensure funding for the one million Missourians with pre-existing conditions.

"It's not enough money," said Mahaney.

"It doesn't begin to do what is needed on a yearly basis, much less on a five-year basis," said Rev. Snider.

The new plan would also allow states to opt out of minimum coverage rules - which right now include maternity care, mental health, and prescription drugs.

The President is confident the legislation will move forward as is.

"We will get this passed through the Senate, I feel so confident," he said.

The focus for the opposition now will be reaching out to their senators, hoping they can stop the AHCA.

The AARP, the American Medical Association, and the American Cancer Society had also opposed this GOP plan.

In a statement, the executive director of the Missouri Republican Party Austin Stukins said: "President Trump and Republicans in Congress made a promise to repeal the epic disaster known as Obamacare - and today, House Republicans took an important step to follow through on that promise."

He would go on to call on Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill to help get the bill through the senate.

The Missouri Democratic Party released a statement calling the passing of the bill "a betrayal of our working families."

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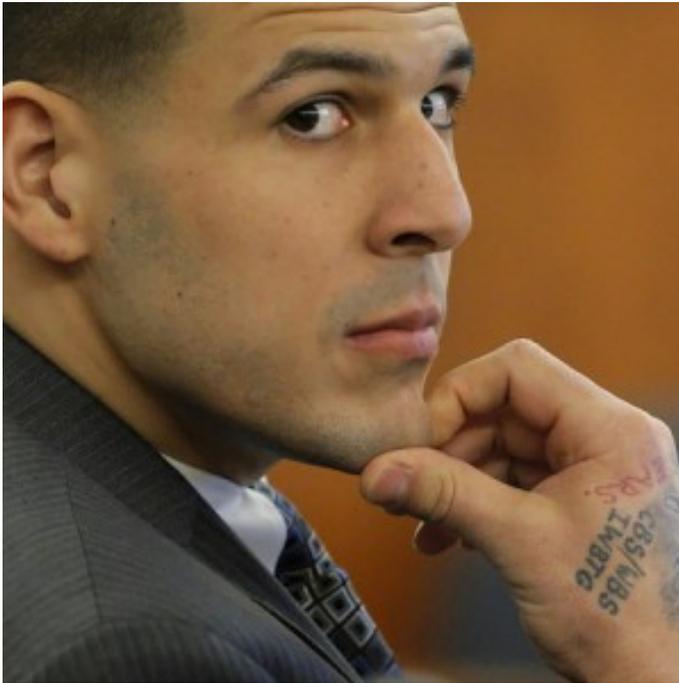
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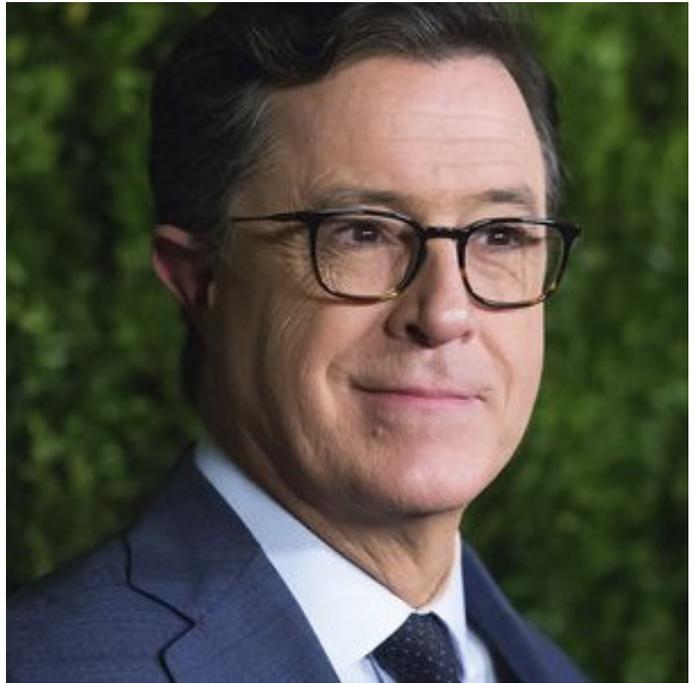
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