Sen. Roy Blunt Weighs In On Repeal And Replace Plan

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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- Legislators are speaking out on the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. And U.S. Senator Roy Blunt has expressed where he stands on the bill.

Senator Blunt said one day after the plan was revealed he didn't think it would pass as is. Two days later, he spoke in support of it.

"It's going to be more challenging to go forward than it would have been if we had done the same common sense things just a few years ago," said Senator Blunt during his address on the Senate floor Thursday.

Just two days earlier, the Senator said during an interview with Kansas City radio station KMBZ he wasn't sure the plan could pass.

"Well, I haven't had time to look at it in great depth yet, so we'll see," he told the radio station. "What I don't like is it may not be a plan that gets a majority votes and lets us move on. Because we can't stay where we are with the plan we've got now."

The plan we've got now, the Senator says has created chaos - pointing out that 97 out of 114 counties in Missouri will only have one insurer option this year.
"We have to do what we have to do to get back to where people can have the insurance that meets their needs," he said Thursday.

He also mentioned too many taxes and premiums that are too high. What he does like about the new bill - protecting those with pre-existing conditions, keeping children on parents' plan until age 26 and the expansion of health savings accounts.

"That allows everybody in the country to put pre-taxable dollars into portable health savings account that goes with you wherever you go, from job to job," he said.

But those who oppose the repeal and replace say it seems Republicans are trying to rush the bill through. And many questions, including how many will lose or gain coverage are left unanswered.

"We don't have the numbers yet from the Congressional Budget Office of even how much this plan is going to cost or how many, potentially millions of people, would lose their health care coverage," said Crystal Brigman Mahaney, deputy director of Missouri Healthcare for All.

Sen. Blunt says the President said this plan is negotiable, and if it comes to that, Blunt is willing to be part of the negotiations to get a replacement plan passed.
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