# State Leaders React To American Health Care Act

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The House of Representatives has voted to repeal the Affordable Care Act with the American Health Care Act, and it now moves to the Senate.

The White House defended the decision to vote on the health care bill without waiting for a new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that the Senate will wait for the Congressional Budget Office's analysis, which will be released early next week, before voting on the bill.

Twenty Republican representatives, mostly from swing districts, opted not to join part leaders in voting for the measure.

Had 22 GOP representatives not voted for the measure, the bill would have failed.

The bill that passed the U.S. House on Thursday would allow health insurance companies to impose lifetime and annual caps on benefits for those who get coverage through a large-employer plan.

Former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul banned insurers from imposing such caps.

Before the Obama reforms, people who got a serious medical problem could be cut off from their health coverage once they hit their insurance limit.

Many politicians and groups around Missouri were quick to share their thoughts on the bill.

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Tim McGraw

Missouri Health Care for All says the AHCA is unacceptable for Missourians because the bill would make coverage less affordable for average Americans and gives tax breaks to big drug and insurance companies.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill says it's not right for our state.

"I've always said we have to make changes to fix the current law, which is why I've introduced legislation to tackle prescription drug costs, and support ways to shore-up the individual market. But cutting protections for Missourians who've had the nerve to be sick before and have a preexisting health condition, and making older Missourians pay more for their care, isn't a solution. It's a disaster for Missouri families," McCaskill says.

Missouri Democratic Party Chair Stephen Webber had similar things to say as all of Missouri's Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of the ACA repeal.

"Today's vote to hike costs for older Missourians and gut protections for individuals who've been sick before is a betrayal of our working families."

On the other side, Western Missouri Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler voted in favor of the bill the replace the Affordable Care Act.

"Since Obamacare was implemented, it has been on a downward spiral with skyrocketing premiums, enormous deductibles, and insurers fleeing the collapsing marketplaces. The American people deserve better and we can do better," says Hartzler.

On the issue of pre-existing services, Hartzler says there is "a lot of misinformation out there about this bill, and it is important to note that this plan protects people with pre-existing conditions.  A person with a pre-existing condition cannot be denied coverage. A state can apply for a limited waiver if it has a high risk pool system for providing affordable care to individuals with pre-existing conditions.  This bill provides over $130 billion to help fund these high risk pools in any state applying for a waiver."

Congressman for Missouri's 7th District, Billy Long, agreed with Hartzler.

Long says he and other House Republicans "made good on their promise to the American people and passed the American Health Care Act."

A coalition of Springfield leaders and organizations have planned a rally for noon Friday to show local opposition to Long's vote in favor of replacing the Affordable Care Act.

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Tim McGraw