



## **EDPMA News Alert: Republicans Release Draft Legislation Repealing and Replacing the ACA**

---

Today, the Republicans released their discussion draft of legislation repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is expected to release its estimate of the impact of that proposal early next week. The Senate could consider this bill as early as next week. It may be amended before the Senate considers it.

Like the bill passed in the House, the Senate proposal would:

- Provide greater flexibility for states to waive the ACA requirement that plans, at minimum, cover essential health benefits, including emergency care;
- Provide for deep Medicaid cuts. (Next week, CBO plans to release an estimate of the number of beneficiaries who are expected to lose coverage.);
- Eliminate 3.8 percent net investment tax, 2.3 percent levy on medical device sales, a 0.9 percent Medicare surtax, and a 10% indoor tanning tax and delay the "Cadillac" tax:
- Ban funding for Planned Parenthood for one year: and
- Retain cost-sharing subsidies through 2019.

There are also key differences to the House bill, such as:

- No increase in premiums for individuals who did not maintain continuous coverage;
- A longer transition period for eliminating individuals from Medicaid (per the ACA expansion option). The House bill eliminated the expansion in 2020; the Senate bill begins the phase out from 2020 to 2024.
- A steeper cut to Medicaid in future years: Medicaid spending would be tied to a slower growth rate under the Senate bill. The House bill ties it to medical inflation (which is higher than overall inflation), while the Senate bill would cap it to the rate of inflation starting in 2025;
- New funding (\$2B) for States to combat opioid abuse: and

A copy of the Senate draft is available [here](#). Additionally, a side by side comparison by the Washington post is available [here](#).

---

---

