



EDPMA News Alert: Latest Senate Activities on ACA Repeal and Replace Actions

Today the Senate plans to vote on an amendment by Sen. Daines (R-MT) which includes creating a single-payer health system. It's not clear at this time if the Senate will get to a final vote today or tomorrow or if other amendments will be offered after the debate time expires. Right now, there are only two pending amendments, likely due to the fact that Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) announced that Democrats will not offer any amendments until a final bill is produced. That "final bill" is likely the "skinny bill" which is a concept that has been floated among the GOP members. News reports suggest that the "skinny bill" may include the individual and employer mandates and potentially the medical device tax repeal. However, at this time, it's unclear if Republicans have enough votes for this proposal, given concerns with the substance and process of this potential amendment. Senate leadership has expressed interest in passing a version of the bill to allow the House and Senate to name a conference committee to negotiate the differences between the bills each body passes. Any conference agreement would then need to be passed by the House and Senate.

Yesterday, the Senate failed to pass an amendment (45-55) offered by Senators Paul (R-KY) and Enzi (R-WY) to repeal the ACA without replacement, with a two year delay. Republicans voting against the amendment included Alexander (R-TN), Capito (R-WV), Collins (R-ME), Heller (R-NV), Murkowski (R-AK), Portman (R-OH) and McCain (R-AZ).

The Senate then rejected (52-48) a Motion to commit the health bill to the Finance Committee instructing it to remove the Medicaid cuts. They also failed to pass (48-51) an amendment by Sen. Casey (D-PA) regarding Americans with Disabilities.

Sen. Heller (R-NV) offered 'Sense of the Senate' amendment stating that Medicaid expansion is a priority and the ACA must be improved. A point of order was raised against the amendment by Sen. Sanders (I-VT) and the Senate failed to waive the rules (10-90).