



An ObamaCare Delay For Vulnerable Dems

In An Attempt To Save His Party's Fortunes, Obama Announces Another ObamaCare Delay

According To *The Hill*, The Obama Administration Will Announce Another "Major" ObamaCare Delay, Allowing Insurers To Continue Offering Health Plans That Don't Meet ObamaCare Coverage Requirements. "The Obama administration is set to announce another major delay in implementing the Affordable Care Act, easing election pressure on Democrats. As early as this week, according to two sources, the White House will announce a new directive allowing insurers to continue offering health plans that do not meet ObamaCare's minimum coverage requirements." (Elise Viebeck, "New ObamaCare Delay To Help Midterm Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 3/3/14)

- **"Prolonging The 'Keep Your Plan' Fix Will Avoid Another Wave Of Health Policy Cancellations Otherwise Expected This Fall."** (Elise Viebeck, "New ObamaCare Delay To Help Midterm Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 3/3/14)
- **The Length Of Delay Could Last To 2016 And Beyond.** "It is unclear how long the extension will be, though one source believed it could last to the end of Obama's second term, and perhaps beyond." (Elise Viebeck, "New ObamaCare Delay To Help Midterm Dems," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 3/3/14)

This "Major" Delay Follows Secretary Sebelius' Promise That There Wouldn't Be Anymore ObamaCare Delays. KIMBERLY SWANT: "Do you anticipate more delays?" KATHLEEN SEBELIUS: "No." ([Fox News](#), 12/31/13)

The White House In The Past Has Derided Those Health Plans As "Substandard" And "Cut-Rate"

Obama Called The Plans "Cut-Rate Plans That Don't Offer Real Financial Protection In The Event Of A Serious Illness Or An Accident." OBAMA: "One of the things health reform was designed to do was to help not only the uninsured, but also the underinsured. And there are a number of Americans -- fewer than 5 percent of Americans -- who've got cut-rate plans that don't offer real financial protection in the event of a serious illness or an accident. Remember, before the Affordable Care Act, these bad-apple insurers had free rein every single year to limit the care that you received, or use minor preexisting conditions to jack up your premiums or bill you into bankruptcy. So a lot of people thought they were buying coverage, and it turned out not to be so good." (President Barack Obama, "[Remarks By The President And Governor Deval Patrick On The Affordable Care Act](#)," Boston, MA, 10/30/13)

White House Press Secretary Called The Plans “Substandard” And Said They “Don't Provide Minimum Services That Have A Lot Of Fine Print That Leaves Consumers In The Lurch.” CARNEY: “And it’s correct -- I mean, I take your point -- it’s correct that substandard plans that don't provide minimum services that have a lot of fine print that leaves consumers in the lurch, often because of annual caps or lifetime caps or carve-outs for some preexisting conditions, those are no longer allowed -- because the Affordable Care Act is built on the premise that health care is not a privilege, it’s a right, and there should be minimum standards for the plans available to Americans across the country.” ([White House Press Briefing](#), 10/28/13)

Obama Has Already Granted A One-Year Extension For Plans Not Up To ObamaCare Standards, Undercutting The Law’s “Central Goal”

In November, Obama Made “A Political Decision” Allowing Insurance Companies To Offer ObamaCare Canceled Health Policies. “President Obama announced Thursday that insurance companies can offer health policies canceled under ObamaCare to customers that held them for an additional year. The move could prevent existing plans from being cancelled until after the 2014 midterm elections, a political decision designed to provide relief to Democrats worried the issue could cost them at the polls.” (Elise Viebeck and Justin Sink, “Obama’s Fix: Canceled Plans May Be Offered Until After Midterms,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 11/14/13)

- **The First Fix Was “Widely Panned.”** “President Barack Obama’s announcement of a proposed fix to people losing their health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act was widely panned by the editorial boards of the nation’s biggest newspapers, with even the usually supportive New York Times saying it raises ‘troubling questions.’” (Tal Kopan, “Editorial Pages Pan President Obama’s Plan,” [Politico](#), 11/15/13)

Obama’s New ObamaCare Delay, Will “Undercut One Rationale” For ObamaCare, That Plans Offer Minimum Essential Benefits. “It would also undercut one rationale for the healthcare reform law. Under the Affordable Care Act, health plans are required to offer 10 medical benefits that the Obama administration deems essential. Some of the services are popular, such as prescription drug coverage, but others, such as maternity and pediatric care, have been criticized as expensive as well as being unnecessary for many policyholders, such as older people.” (Elise Viebeck and Justin Sink, “Obama’s Fix: Canceled Plans May Be Offered Until After Midterms,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 11/14/13)

- **The Associated Press On Obama’s November One-Year Plan Extension: It Undermines The “Central Goal Of The Law.”** “But it also invited unintended consequences, showing how easily the law’s complicated framework can start to come loose. (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Obama Struggles To Save His Cherished Health Law,” [The Associated Press](#), 11/16/13)

WITH HIS PARTY’S PROSPECTS FADING, OBAMA IS HOPING TO SAVE THE SENATE FOR DEMOCRATS

Under Obama’s One-Year Extension From November 2013, Voters Would Receive Cancellation Letters In The Mail Right Before The 2014 Midterm Election. “A one-year moratorium pushed the deadline beyond the midterm election, but insurers must send out cancellation notices 90 days in advance. That would mean notices in the mail by Oct. 1, five weeks before voters go to the polls.” (Elise Viebeck, “New ObamaCare Delay To Help Midterm Dems,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 3/3/14)

- **The Health Plan Cancellations “Would Have Created A Firestorm For Democratic Candidates In The Last, Crucial Weeks Before Election Day.”** “The cancellations would have created a firestorm for Democratic candidates in the last, crucial weeks before Election Day. The

White House is intent on protecting its allies in the Senate, where Democrats face a battle to keep control of the chamber.” (Elise Viebeck, “New ObamaCare Delay To Help Midterm Dems,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 3/3/14)

Vulnerable Senate Democrats That Promised Americans That They Could “Keep Their Plan

Sen. Kay Hagan (D-NC): “If You’ve Got Health Insurance, In Our Country, You Keep It. Whatever We Do, I Don’t Want To Dismantle Any System Where People Are Happy With The Coverage That They Have.” (Sen. Kay Hagan, [Remarks At HCAN Rally](#), 6/25/09)

In 2009, Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) Said On The Floor Of The Senate That “Those Individuals Who Like The Coverage They Already Have Will Be Able To Keep Their Current Plan.” LANDRIEU:

“Individuals and small businesses that do not have coverage would be able to select a private insurance plan from a range of options sold on a National Insurance Exchange. Lower and middle income people would receive subsidies to help them afford this insurance, while those individuals who like the coverage they already have will be able to keep their current plan. This is a very accurate description of this bill before us--the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” (Sen. Mary Landrieu, [Floor Remarks](#), 12/22/09)

After Voting To Pass ObamaCare, Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR) Said It Would “Protect And Expand An Individual’s Choice Of Doctors And Insurance Plans Without Any Government Interference.”

“Elements of this package will drive down costs for families, small businesses, and government; protect and expand an individual’s choice of doctors and insurance plans without any government interference; and assure affordable, reliable healthcare for every Arkansan.” (Press Release, “On Senate Passage Of Health Care Reform,” [Sen. Mark Pryor](#), 12/24/09)

After Voting To Pass ObamaCare, Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK) Claimed “Alaskans Who Have Health Insurance Now, And Are Happy With It, Can Keep It.” “Alaskans who have health insurance now, and are happy with it, can keep it. While the thousands of Alaskans who do not have health insurance, or have insurance they can't really afford, will have access to an insurance exchange offering affordable health insurance choices. An estimated 52,000 Alaskans will qualify for tax credits to help purchase affordable health coverage.” (Press Release, “Sen. Begich Statement On Passage Of Health Reform Bill,” [Sen. Mark Begich](#), 12/24/09)

In September Of 2009, Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) Promised. “If You Have An Insurance Policy You Like, A Doctor Or Medical Facility That Provides Medical Services To You,” You’ll Be Able To Keep Your Doctor Or Your Plan.” “‘If you have an insurance policy you like, a doctor or medical facility that provides medical services to you, you’ll be able to keep your doctor or your plan,’ Udall told a reporter with Fox21 News in September 2009.” (Christina Salvo, “Sen. Mark Udall Talks On Health Care Reform,” [Fox 21 News](#), 9/2/09)

In August Of 2009, Rep. Gary Peters (D-MI) Assured Constituents That “If You’re Covered And You Like Your Insurance, You Can Keep It.” “Illegal immigrants won't be covered, Peters said. Medicare benefits won't change, and will include no co-pays for preventative care and a reduction in drug costs. And Congress isn't being treated any differently than anyone else who has employer-covered insurance, Peters said. ‘If you're covered and you like your insurance, you can keep it,’ he said.” (Kathleen Gray, “Peters Queried, Not Boomed, Over Health Care,” [Detroit Free Press](#), 8/20/09)

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH): “My Health Reform Reality Check Is That Health Care Reform Is Consumer-Based And Market-Driven. You Can Keep Your Insurance If You Like It.” (Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, [Floor Remarks](#), 10/15/09)

In August Of 2009, Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) Promised “I’m Not Going To Support A Health Care Reform Plan That’s Gonna Take Away Health Care That You’ve Got Right Now Or A Health Care Plan That You Like.” WARNER: Another question that we get from an awful lot of Virginians is folks who

say to me 'hey Senator, my health care plan is pretty good. Is health care reform going to change that?' Let me make clear, I'm not going to support a health care reform plan that's gonna take away health care that you've got right now or a health care plan that you like. (Sen. Mark Warner, "Mark Warner: Can I keep my health insurance?," [YouTube](#), 8/10/2009)

In 2009, Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) Told Constituents "If You Like Your Current Health Insurance, You Will Be Able To Keep It. And You Will Be Able To Continue Seeing Your Current Doctor." "Q: I really like the health insurance and doctor that I have right now. Will health care reform mean that the government will choose my doctor instead? A: No. If you like your current health insurance, you will be able to keep it. And you will be able to continue seeing your current doctor." ("What Health Care Reform Means For You," [Office Of Sen. Jeff Merkley](#), 8/11/09)

THE LATEST OBAMACARE DELAY FOLLOWS NUMEROUS DELAYS TO THE LAW

Just Weeks Ago, The Obama Administration Delayed ObamaCare's Employer Mandate For A Second Time. Trying to limit election-year damage on health care, the Obama administration Monday granted business groups another delay in a much-criticized requirement that larger firms cover their workers or face fines." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Another Delay In Health Law's Employer Requirement," [The Associated Press](#), 2/10/14)

"The White House Is Pushing Back The Start Of Next Year's Open Enrollment Period Past The 2014 Midterm Elections." "Stung by a brutally messy October for Obamacare, the White House is pushing the start of next year's open enrollment period past the 2014 midterm elections." (Devin Dwyer, "White House Delays 2015 ObamaCare Enrollment," [ABC News' The Note](#), 11/22/13)

The Obama Administration Announced A One-Year Delay Of ObamaCare's Small Business Exchange. "The Obama administration today announced a year-long delay of online enrollment for small businesses looking to purchase health coverage through federal-run exchanges, another setback for [HealthCare.gov](#)." (Jason Millman, "Online SHOP Enrollment Delayed By One Year," [Politico](#), 11/27/13)

According To Former Obama Administration Officials, The White House Systemically Delayed Enacting New Regulations – Including ObamaCare Regulations – Before The 2012 Elections Over Concerns They Would Have Affected The Election. "The White House systematically delayed enacting a series of rules on the environment, worker safety and health care to prevent them from becoming points of contention before the 2012 election, according to documents and interviews with current and former administration officials." (Juliet Eilperin, "White House Delayed Enacting Rules Ahead Of 2012 Election To Avoid Controversy," [The Washington Post](#), 12/14/13)

In August, The Obama Administration Delayed An ObamaCare Provision That Would "Limit Out-Of-Pocket Insurance Costs For Consumers Until 2015." "The Obama administration has delayed a key provision in President Obama's health care reform law that would limit out-of-pocket insurance costs for consumers until 2015." (Laura Seligman, "Administration Delays ObamaCare Caps On Out-Of-Pocket Costs," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 8/13/13)

In September, The Obama Administration Delayed The Launch Of The Spanish Version Of HealthCare.gov. "Separately, the administration told Hispanic groups that the Spanish-language version of its healthcare.gov website will be not be ready to handle enrollments for a few weeks. An estimated 10 million Latinos are eligible for coverage." (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, "Health Law Online Sign-Up Delayed For Small Firms," [The Associated Press](#), 9/26/13)