



Delays Of Our Lives

With Only Days Left In ObamaCare's Open Enrollment, Obama Squeezes In One More Delay

Health And Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius On The March 31 Deadline: "We Don't Intend To Move That Date." "The enrollment deadline is midnight, March 31. 'We don't intend to move that date,' Sebelius said at a press conference at Montclair State University." (Kathleen O'Brien, "Sebelius Stumps For ObamaCare In Return Visit To NJ," [The Star-Ledger](#), 3/24/14)

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WILL BACKTRACK ON THEIR WORD AND DELAY OBAMACARE ONCE AGAIN

The Obama Administration Will Push Back The ObamaCare Enrollment Deadline To Sometime In Mid-April. "The Obama administration has decided to give extra time to Americans who say that they are unable to enroll in health-care plans through the federal insurance marketplace by the March 31 deadline." (Amy Goldstein, "Obama Administration Will Allow More Time To Enroll In Health Care On Federal Marketplace," [The Washington Post](#), 3/25/14)

- **As The Obama Administration Has Extended The Deadline, An Administration Official Said "An Exact Time Frame For This Extension Has Not Been Set."** "According to a Health and Human Services official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity about decisions that have not been made public, an exact time frame for this extension has not been set, and depends in part on how many people request it. Nor have officials decided precisely how long people will have to select a health plan after they get the extra time." (Amy Goldstein, "Obama Administration Will Allow More Time To Enroll In Health Care On Federal Marketplace," [The Washington Post](#), 3/25/14)

The Enrollment Extension "Will Not Be Restricted" To Those Who Waited Until The March 31 Deadline To Try To Enroll. "The extra time will not be restricted, though, to people who wait until the last minute to try to sign up. Although no one will be asked why they need an extension, the idea is to help people whose applications have gotten held up because of the Web site's technical problems — or who haven't been able to get the system to calculate subsidies to help them pay for coverage." (Amy Goldstein, "Obama Administration Will Allow More Time To Enroll In Health Care On Federal Marketplace," [The Washington Post](#), 3/25/14)

"The White House Had Previously Insisted That The Deadline Was Firm And Would Not Be Extended." (Robert Pear, "U.S. To Extend Sign-Up Period For Insurance," [The New York Times](#), 3/26/14)

At A Committee Hearing, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Said There Would Be No More Major Changes To ObamaCare. "HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Wednesday that there would be no delay of ObamaCare's individual mandate, the penalty for violating it or the March 31 closing date of the

enrollment period, the strongest statement yet that the administration has no plans for more major changes to the law in the final weeks of the first sign-up period.” (Brett Norman, “Kathleen Sebelius: No More ObamaCare Delays,” [Politico](#), 3/12/14)

Once Again, The Obama Administration Will Rely On The “Honor System” In The Latest ObamaCare Delay

The Administration Will Rely On An “Honor System” For Determining Which Consumers Will Benefit From The Delay. “Under the new rules, people will be able to qualify for an extension by checking a blue box on HealthCare.gov to indicate that they tried to enroll before the deadline. This method will rely on an honor system; the government will not try to determine whether the person is telling the truth.” (Amy Goldstein, “Obama Administration Will Allow More Time To Enroll In Health Care On Federal Marketplace,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/25/14)

FLASHBACK: Citing “Legislative And Operational Barriers,” States Will No Longer Be Required To Verify If An Employee Receives Employer-Sponsored Health Care. “After encountering ‘legislative and operational barriers,’ the federal government will not require the District and the 16 states that are running their own marketplaces to verify a consumer’s statement that they do not receive health insurance from their employer.” (Sarah Kliff and Sandhya Somashekhar, “Health Insurance Marketplaces Will Not Be Required To Verify Consumer Claims,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/5/13)

- ***The Wall Street Journal* : “ObamaCare Is Now On The Same Honor System” As The “Liar Loans,’ The Low- Or No-Documentation Mortgages That Took Borrowers At Their Word Without Checking Pay Stubs Or W-2s.”** “Remember ‘liar loans,’ the low- or no-documentation mortgages that took borrowers at their word without checking pay stubs or W-2s? ObamaCare is now on the same honor system, with taxpayers in tow.” (Editorial, “ObamaCare’s ‘Liar’ Subsidies,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 7/7/13)

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION IS JUST MAKING OBAMACARE UP AS THEY GO ALONG

The Latest Delay Joins “A Long Pattern” Of Enrollment Delays And Shows That The Obama Administration Doesn’t Care About Deadlines. “In reality, the administration is just continuing a long pattern of delays. They’re all designed to show flexibility and help the law work better, but they also fuel a public perception that ObamaCare deadlines never really mean anything.” (Susan Levine, “A Brief History Of ObamaCare Delays,” [Politico](#), 3/25/14)

- **Earlier This Month, Obama Extended The ObamaCare Enrollment Deadline For People In The Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan (PCIP) Program.** “The Obama administration is again extending a temporary ObamaCare program insuring some of the sickest patients in the country amid concerns not enough people will find new coverage by the end of the month. People enrolled in the temporary Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, which was set to expire March 31, can purchase an extra month of coverage, the Obama administration said this afternoon. The PCIP program covers people who traditionally had trouble affording or finding individual insurance because of a medical condition.” (Jason Millman, “HHS Will Let Sickest Patients Stay On Their Health Plans Longer,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/14/14)
- **In January, Obama Extended The PCIP Enrollment Deadline, Set To End January 31 To March 15.** “The Obama administration announced Tuesday that it was again extending the ObamaCare enrollment deadline for people with pre-existing conditions. The administration said it would extend the Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan (PCIP), slated to end Jan. 31, until

March 15.” (Jonathan Easley, “WH Delays Another ObamaCare Deadline,” [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 1/14/14)

- **In December, The Obama Administration Announced An Extension For ObamaCare Enrollment From December 23, 2013 To January 1, 2014.** “The Obama administration provided a few details Tuesday about a special enrollment period for Americans who sought to sign up through the online federal health insurance marketplace for coverage starting Jan. 1 but failed to obtain it. In a blog post under the heading, ‘Couldn't enroll by December 23? We can still help you get covered,’ the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid explained that individuals could reach out to a network of federally-sponsored call centers around the country any day this week besides Christmas Day to try to complete their health insurance applications.” (Juliet Eilperin, “Administration Extends Enrollment Deadline Again,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/14/13)
- **Right Before The December 23 Enrollment Deadline, Obama Gave Shoppers An Extra Day To Select A Health Plan.** “Anticipating heavy traffic on the government's health care website, the Obama administration effectively extended Monday's deadline for signing up for insurance by a day, giving people in 36 states more time to select a plan. The grace period — which runs through Tuesday — was the latest in a series of pushed-back deadlines and delays that have marked the troubled rollout of the health care law.” (Carla K. Johnson, “Last Minute Insurance Shoppers Given 24-Hour Grace Period,” [The Associated Press](#), 12/23/13)
- **In December, Obama Extended The PCIP Plans By One Month.** “In yet another acknowledgment of the difficulties Americans have faced purchasing coverage through the HealthCare.gov website, the Obama administration on Thursday announced that it would grant a one-month extension for a transitional federal program that provides health coverage to people with serious illnesses. ... The transitional insurance program, known as the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, or PCIP, was supposed to expire on Jan. 1 when new Affordable Care Act rules take effect requiring insurers in the individual market to offer coverage to all people, regardless of their current or past health status.” (Tony Pugh, “Administration Relaxes Some Health Care Rules, Asks Insurers To Be Flexible,” [McClatchy](#), 12/12/13)

THE LATEST DELAY PUTS THE WHITE HOUSE AT ODDS WITH HHS SECRETARY KATHLEEN SEBELIUS ON THE OBAMACARE WEBSITE'S PERFORMANCE

Despite HHS Secretary Sebelius Claiming The Federal ObamaCare Exchange Was Fixed And Ready To Enroll Consumers, The Obama Administration Has Worried That The Website Will “Freeze.”

“Kathleen Sebelius, the secretary of health and human services, has said repeatedly that the federal website has been repaired and is ready to handle a surge of applications expected just before the deadline. But White House officials and some technology experts working on the exchange began to worry that the website might freeze up if the demand exceeded expectations.” (Robert Pear, “U.S. To Extend Sign-Up Period For Insurance,” [The New York Times](#), 3/26/14)

A New Website Analysis Found That The ObamaCare Exchange Website Is Slow

According To An Analysis Performed For *The Associated Press*, The ObamaCare Website Runs Poorly. “HealthCare.gov, the online portal to taxpayer-subsidized health insurance, runs slowly when compared with major private health insurer websites. That's according to an analysis for The Associated Press by Compuware, a Detroit company that measures website performance. The tests found that response time for HealthCare.gov averaged nearly nine seconds nationally over the seven-day period that ended Tuesday. Generally, response time for leading private health insurance websites averages just under five seconds.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Testers Say Federal Health Care Website Runs Slow,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/26/14)

- **“Based On That Real-World Comparison, Compuware Says The Speed Of Healthcare.Gov Is ‘Unacceptable.’”** (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, “Testers Say Federal Health Care Website Runs Slow,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/26/14)