



# No Fooling: ObamaCare Is Still A Disaster

*As ObamaCare's Open Enrollment Closes, A Collection Of Statements Obama Probably Wishes Weren't April Fools Jokes*

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## OBAMACARE WILL BE A WINNER FOR DEMOCRATS IN 2014: APRIL FOOLS

**Earlier This Month, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Called ObamaCare A "Winner" For Democrats.** "You'll have to ask the member, but I believe it's a winner," she told reporters as she marked this Sunday's fourth anniversary of the law's passage." (Paige Winfield Cunningham, "Pelosi: Health Law Is A 'Winner' For Democrats," [Politico](#), 3/20/14)

**Democrats Are "Increasingly Alarmed" About The Impact Of ObamaCare On Their Chances In The Midterm.** "Democrats are becoming increasingly alarmed about their midterm election fortunes amid President Obama's sinking approval ratings, a loss in a special House election in Florida last week and millions of dollars spent by Republican-aligned groups attacking the new health law." (Jonathan Martin and Ashley Parker, "Obama Factor Adds To Fears Of Democrats," [The New York Times](#), 3/15/14)

- **Problems With ObamaCare "Are Part Of A Toxic Mix" Facing Democrats In 2014.** "Problems with the president's health care law are part of a toxic mix as politicians must also grapple with Americans grouching about the job market and global instability presented by the Ukraine crisis." (Steve Holland and Thomas Ferraro, "Democrats Seek Ways To Limit Obamacare Fallout After Florida Defeat," [Reuters](#), 3/16/14)
- **ABC's Jeff Zeleny: Democrats Privately Admit They Are Worried That ObamaCare Is "Political Poison."** ZELENY: "But, privately, several Democrats tell ABC News they're increasingly worried the health care law is political poison." (ABC's [This Week](#), 3/16/14)

**The White House Continues To Tell Worried Congressional Democrats That The "Health Care Law's Problems Will Fade In People's Minds By November."** "According to administration officials, Democrats on Capitol Hill and other strategists who've been in touch with the White House, President Barack Obama's team is sure the health care law's problems will fade in people's minds by November, months after the website rollout." (Edward Isaac Dovere, "Dems Try To Keep Hope Alive With ACA Mantra," [Politico](#), 3/31/14)

- **Many Democrats Have Questioned Obama's Assurances That Reactions To ObamaCare Will Improve, Asking "Are You Kidding?"** "For many in a party that's in a full-fledged freak-out, the reaction to the idea of hoping things will improve to the desired extent by November is some version of: Are you kidding?" (Edward Isaac Dovere, "Dems Try To Keep Hope Alive With ACA Mantra," [Politico](#), 3/31/14)

**Three Democrat Senators Worried About Their Reelection Prospects Have Pleaded For Changes To ObamaCare** “Six senator, five Democratic and one independent, on Thursday rolled out a series of policy proposals they said were intended to fix and improve President Obama’s signature health care law. Three of the Democrats — Senators Mark Begich of Alaska, Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana and Mark Warner of Virginia — are up for re-election in 2014. Their unveiling of the policy prescriptions comes as vulnerable Democratic candidates in both the House and Senate are under increasing pressure to distance themselves from the Affordable Care Act.” (Ashley Parker, “Six Senators, Fearing Political Cost, Urge Changes To Health Act,” [The New York Times](#), 3/27/14)

## **DEMOCRAT-LED STATE OBAMACARE EXCHANGES HAVE PERFORMED FLAWLESSLY: APRIL FOOLS**

**State-Based ObamaCare Exchanges In Democrat-Led States Have Become “The Biggest Laggards” In Enrolling People In A Health Plan.** “With the federal online insurance exchange running more smoothly than ever, the biggest laggards in fixing enrollment problems are now state-run exchanges in several states where the governors and legislative leaders have been among the strongest supporters of President Obama’s health care law.” (Abby Goodnough, “Glitches In State Exchanges Give G.O.P. A Cudgel,” [The New York Times](#), 2/2/14)

**Cover Oregon, The State’s ObamaCare Exchange Is A “Technological Disaster.”** “Oregon had all the right ingredients for a sparkling ObamaCare success story: a Democratic doctor as governor, an eager Legislature and a history of health care innovation. It ended up with ObamaCare’s biggest technological disaster.” (Jennifer Haberkorn, “ObamaCare In Oregon: A Failed Exchange,” [Politico](#), 3/31/14)

- **Cover Oregon “Is The Only Insurance Exchange In The Country On Which People Still Cannot Buy Coverage Entirely Online.”** “CoverOregon.com, the state’s equivalent of HealthCare.gov, is the only insurance exchange in the country on which people still cannot buy coverage entirely online.” (Jennifer Haberkorn, “ObamaCare In Oregon: A Failed Exchange,” [Politico](#), 3/31/14)

**Maryland’s ObamaCare Exchange Has Performed So Poorly, Officials Are Considering Scrapping The Exchange And Starting Over.** “Maryland officials are set to replace the state’s online health insurance system with technology from Connecticut’s insurance marketplace, according to two people familiar with the decision, an acknowledgment that a system that so far has cost at least \$125.5 million is broken beyond repair. The state health exchange board plans to vote on the change on Tuesday, the day after the end of the first enrollment period for Marylanders to sign up for health insurance plans under the 2010 Affordable Care Act.” (Mary Pat Flaherty and Jenna Johnson, “Maryland Set To Abandon Troubled Health Exchange, Adopt Connecticut’s System,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/28/14)

**After Enduring A Launch Delay, Hawaii’s ObamaCare Exchange Continues To Be Riddled With Software Glitches.** “The Hawaii exchange has had problems from its start, including software problems and a delay in open enrollment that led some people to skip the exchange altogether and buy plans directly from insurance companies in anticipation of a March 31 coverage deadline under President Barack Obama’s federal health care overhaul.” (Cathy Bussewitz, “Hawaii Lawmakers Question Health Exchange’s Leader,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/14/14)

**Officials Connected To The Massachusetts’ ObamaCare Website Have Acknowledged That The Website May Not Be Functioning Even After A Special Three Month Extension.** “The consultant brought in to help fix the state’s troubled health insurance marketplace acknowledged Thursday that its website may not be fully functioning by the end of June, and that one option under consideration is to scrap the multi-million-dollar site and start over. The lack of a working website may make it difficult to meet the June 30 deadline to move more than 200,000 people into insurance plans that comply with the

federal Affordable Care Act, said Sarah Iselin, special assistant to Governor Deval Patrick.” (Carolyn Y. Johnson, “State’s Troubled Insurance Website May Not Be Fully Functioning By June Deadline,” [Boston Globe](#), 2/28/14)

## **PREMIUMS ARE SET TO DECREASE UNDER OBAMACARE: APRIL FOOLS**

**HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Has Acknowledged That Premiums Will Increase.** “I think premiums are likely to go up, but go up at a smaller pace than what we’ve seen since 2010,” Sebelius said in response to a question from Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Minn.).” (Jonathan Easley, “Premiums Will Rise In 2015, Says Sebelius,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 3/12/14)

- **“Government Actuaries Predict An 8 Percent Increase In Overall Net Insurance Costs Next Year.”** (David Morgan and Caroline Hunter, “Insurers See Double-Digit ObamaCare Price Rises In Many States Next Year,” [Reuters](#), 3/21/14)

**Health Care Premiums Are Expected To Increase As Young Enrollees Fail To Sign Up For ObamaCare.** “Premiums will depend largely on who signs up for coverage under the law—how many healthy consumers are in the mix to balance out the costs of guaranteeing coverage to people with preexisting conditions. At the end of February, young adults made up 24 percent of enrollees. That’s enough to avoid the dreaded insurance ‘death spiral,’ but could still lead to smaller premium increases next year, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.” (Sam Stein, “ObamaCare Missed February Enrollment Target,” [National Journal](#), 3/11/14)

**Health Industry Officials Expect “ObamaCare-Related Premiums” To Double Across The Country Before The 2015 Enrollment Period.** “Health industry officials say ObamaCare-related premiums will double in some parts of the country, countering claims recently made by the administration. The expected rate hikes will be announced in the coming months amid an intense election year, when control of the Senate is up for grabs. The sticker shock would likely bolster the GOP’s prospects in November and hamper ObamaCare insurance enrollment efforts in 2015.” (Elise Viebeck, “O-Care Premiums About To Skyrocket,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 3/19/14)

- **Some States Will See Premiums Increase By “As Much As 30 Percent.”** “Industry officials and independent analysts say the lack of hard data will mean huge variations in premiums, with increases ranging from the high single-digit percentages in some states to as much as 30 percent in others.” (David Morgan and Caroline Hunter, “Insurers See Double-Digit ObamaCare Price Rises In Many States Next Year,” [Reuters](#), 3/21/14)
- **In Iowa, “Rates Are Expected To Rise 100 Percent” On The ObamaCare Exchange While Employer Sponsored Coverage Rates Are Set To Double.** “In Iowa, which hosts the first presidential caucus in the nation and has a competitive Senate race this year, rates are expected to rise 100 percent on the exchange and by double digits on the larger, employer-based market, according to a recent article in the Business Record.” (Elise Viebeck, “O-Care Premiums About To Skyrocket,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 3/19/14)

## **SMALL BUSINESSES WILL RECEIVE COST SAVINGS UNDER OBAMACARE: APRIL FOOLS**

**“A Federal Actuarial Report Predicts That 65% Of Small Businesses Will See Their Health-Insurance Premiums Increase Under Part Of The Affordable Care Act.”** (Jennifer Corbett Dooren, “Rising Premiums May Hit Small Firms,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 2/24/14)

- **Instead Of Giving Raises, Small Businesses Will Pass On The Higher Health Costs To Employees.** “Officials later point out that, when employers are forced to pay more for their plan,

they generally pass on some of those costs to their employees.” (J.D. Harrison, “Obama Administration: Health Law’s New Rules Will Increase Costs For Most Small Business,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/25/14)

**The Centers For Medicare And Medicaid Services (CMS) Acknowledged New ObamaCare Rules Would “Likely Drive Up The Price Of Insurance For Some Companies.”** “The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which has spearheaded the implementation of the law, has acknowledged that new rules requiring insurers to offer guaranteed coverage and renewal options to small employers will likely drive up the price of insurance for some companies. So will rules banning insurance companies from varying their rates based on factors like a company’s industry or the age of its employees.” (J.D. Harrison, “Obama Administration: Health Law’s New Rules Will Increase Costs For Most Small Business,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/25/14)

- **According To The Report, The New Rules Will Result In Higher Premiums For “Millions Of Small-Business Employees And Their Family Members.”** “Nearly two-thirds of small businesses that currently offer health insurance to their workers will pay more for coverage as a result of new rules in the health care law, as will millions of small-business employees and their family members, according to new estimates released by the Obama administration.” (J.D. Harrison, “Obama Administration: Health Law’s New Rules Will Increase Costs For Most Small Business,” [The Washington Post](#), 2/25/14)

## **FOUR YEARS SINCE OBAMACARE WAS SIGNED INTO LAW, A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS APPROVE OF OBAMACARE: APRIL FOOLS**

**As The ObamaCare Enrollment Period Comes To An End, A Majority Of Americans Still Oppose The Law.** “Four years after the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted, the deadline (albeit somewhat fluid) to sign up for health exchanges is here, and a majority of Americans continue to oppose the law: 53 percent disapprove, while 41 percent approve, according to the latest CBS News Poll.” (“As Deadline Arrives, Americans Still Disapprove Of ObamaCare,” [CBS News](#), 3/31/14)

- **53 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of The Health Care Law, While Just 41 Percent Approve.** (“As Deadline Arrives, Americans Still Disapprove Of ObamaCare,” [CBS News](#), 3/31/14)

**“Since The Law Was Passed In March 2010, More Have Consistently Disapproved Than Approved Of It. Public Support Has Never Reached The 50 Percent Mark.”** (“As Deadline Arrives, Americans Still Disapprove Of ObamaCare,” [CBS News](#), 3/31/14)

**According To A Poll By *The Associated Press*, ObamaCare Support “Is Languishing At Its Lowest Level” In Four Years.** “Despite a late surge in sign-ups, support for President Barack Obama’s health care law is languishing at its lowest level since passage of the landmark legislation four years ago, according to a new poll. The Associated Press-GfK survey finds that 26 percent of Americans support the Affordable Care Act.” (Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Dennis Junius, “Poll: Obama Health Law Fails to Gain Support,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/28/14)

## **PROVIDERS ARE ACCEPTING OBAMACARE PLANS OFFERED ON THE OBAMACARE EXCHANGE: APRIL FOOLS**

**People That Enrolled In ObamaCare Continue To Find Out That Their Plan No Longer Covers Their Doctor.** “Like Durham, many Americans who’ve enrolled on the ObamaCare exchanges are realizing they have access to a relatively limited set of doctors and hospitals. In many areas, the largest hospitals are not participating and many doctors are not accepting the coverage.” (Tami Luhby, “Got ObamaCare, Can’t Find Doctors,” [CNN Money](#), 3/19/14)

- **Some People Have Also Found That Local Doctors That Accept Their Plan Aren’t Taking On New Patients.** “But others are dismayed that their current doctors aren’t in the plans or that they



can't go to the ones they think are best for them. Still, others say there are local doctors listed in their networks, but they can't get appointments or the providers aren't accepting new patients.” (Tami Luhby, “Got ObamaCare, Can't Find Doctors,” [CNN Money](#), 3/19/14)



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## THE OBAMACARE EXCHANGE WILL NOT ALLOW ADULTS TO ENROLL IN A CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLANS: APRIL FOOLS

**KUTV Headline: “ACA Marketplace Confusion Leaves Adults Signed Up For Pediatric Dental Care.”**

(“ACA Marketplace Confusion Leaves Adults Signed Up For Pediatric Dental Care,” [KUTV](#), 3/6/14)



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