



Side Effects: ObamaCare Causing Distress For Democrats

As 2014 Looms, More Democrats Are Voicing Their Concerns On ObamaCare

JUST DAYS AGO, THE NUMBER TWO HOUSE DEMOCRAT SAID HE HAS CONCERNS WITH OBAMACARE

Democrat Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD): “We’re Concerned About The Implementation.” (Mike Lillis, “Hoyer: Dems Fear ObamaCare Glitches,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/14/13)

- **According To Democrat Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Democrats Are Concerned About The Political Fallout And “Conceded That Stumbling Blocks Are Inevitable” As ObamaCare Is Implemented.** “Democrats anticipate glitches in ObamaCare’s implementation and are anxious about the potential political fallout, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said Tuesday. But with the central reforms set to be installed within the next year, the Maryland Democrat also conceded that stumbling blocks are inevitable and Republicans will likely pounce on each one.” (Mike Lillis, “Hoyer: Dems Fear ObamaCare Glitches,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 5/14/13)

AND OVER THE LAST WEEK, TWO MORE SENATE DEMOCRATS SAID THEY HAD CONCERNS ABOUT OBAMACARE’S IMPLEMENTATION

Democrat Senator Chris Coons (D-DE): I’ve Got “Real Concerns” About ObamaCare Implementation. “The implementation is critically important. as the final provisions of the Affordable Care Act become effective in 2014, there’s a real push by the White House to insure that states are participating, that folks who can and should sign up for the new exchanges do. I’m cautiously optimistic that we’ll work in partnership with the White House to insure that it’s implemented appropriately, but I’ve got some real concerns and we have to keep a close watch on it as it’s rolled out.” ([WCAU](#), 5/12/13)

Senator Angus King (I-ME), Who Caucuses With Senate Democrats, Said He Was “Very Worried About The Way It’s Going To Be Implemented And The Regulations That Are Going To Be Promulgated In Response.” “Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) is worried that unaccountable and overly aggressive regulators will undermine the Affordable Care Act. ‘I’ve got to tell you, as a person who supported the Affordable Care Act, I’m very worried about the way it’s going to be implemented and the

regulations that are going to be promulgated in response,' King said at a conference on regulatory reform on Thursday." (Julian Hatten, "Angus King: Regulators Could Jeopardize ObamaCare," [The Hill's Reg Watch](#), 5/9/13)

THEY JOIN A THRONG OF DEMOCRATS WHO HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR ANXIETY WITH THE LAW HEADING INTO 2014

Democrat Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) Said That Increasing Premiums Will Be A Cause For Concern To The Democrat-Led Senate. "There is reason to be very concerned about what's going to happen with young people. If their (insurance) premiums shoot up, I can tell you, that is going to wash into the United States Senate in a hurry,' said Senator Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat." (David Morgan, "ObamaCare Is On The Horizon, But Will Enough People Sign Up?" [Reuters](#), 5/5/13)

Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) Conceded That ObamaCare Will Be Partly Responsible For Higher Health Insurance Rates. CHUCK SCHUMER: "Our insurance department is empowered to protect families and we're going to watch them like a hawk to make sure they do. Because if they don't, these rates could go through the roof." WHEC's RAY LEVATO: "Is it because of ObamaCare?" SCHUMER: "It's in part because of ObamaCare but health care costs have been going up by double digits for years and years and years." ([WHEC](#), 5/2/13)

Democrat Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) Agreed With Senator Max Baucus That ObamaCare Could Be A "Train Wreck" If ObamaCare Implementation Stumbles. "Max said unless we implement this properly it's going to be a train wreck, and I agree with him,' Reid said, echoing a warning delivered last month by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.)." (Alexander Bolton, "Reid: More Funding Needed To Prevent ObamaCare From Becoming 'Train Wreck,'" [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 5/1/13)

Democrat Representative Ami Bera (D-CA) Has Been "Moderately To Very Concerned" With ObamaCare Increasing The Costs Of Health Care. "I'm moderately to very concerned,' Bera said. 'I have been consistently concerned about the cost of care going up.'" (Dan Morain, "Ami Bera Dings Obama Dings Obama Administration For Rollout Of Affordable Care Act," [The Sacramento Bee's The Swarm](#), 5/1/13)

Democrat Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Who Is Facing Reelection In 2014, Told The White House That Small Businesses In Her State Are Clueless In Complying With ObamaCare. "Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat of New Hampshire, who is up for re-election next year, said, 'We are hearing from a lot of small businesses in New Hampshire that do not know how to comply with the law.'" (Robert Pear, "Democratic Senators Tell White House Of Concerns About Health Care Law Rollout," [The New York Times](#), 4/26/13)

Democrat Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) Is Concerned About ObamaCare's Impact On Health Care Premiums As Health Insurers In Maryland Have Filed Rate Increases Averaging 25 Percent. "Senator Benjamin L. Cardin, Democrat of Maryland, said he told White House officials on Thursday that he was concerned about big rate increases being sought by the largest health insurer in his state. The company, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, has sought increases averaging 25 percent for individual insurance policies that will be sold in the state insurance exchange, and it is seeking increases of about 15 percent for small businesses. The company said the higher premiums reflected costs of complying with the new law." (Robert Pear, "Democratic Senators Tell White House Of Concerns About Health Care Law Rollout," [The New York Times](#), 4/26/13)

Democrat Senator Max Baucus (D-MT): "I Just See A Huge Train Wreck Coming Down." MAX BAUCUS: "I just see a huge train wreck coming down, you and I have discussed this many times, and I don't see any results yet." (Committee On Finance, U.S. Senate, [Hearing](#), 4/17/13)

Democrat Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) Said ObamaCare Was "Probably The Most Complex Piece Of Legislation Ever Passed" And That "Up To This Point It Is Just Beyond Comprehension. JAY

ROCKEFELLER: "I believe that the Affordable Care Act is probably the most complex piece of legislation ever passed by the United States Congress. Tax reform obviously has been huge too, but up to this point it is just beyond comprehension." (Committee On Finance, U.S. Senate, Hearing, 4/9/13)

"One High-Ranking Democrat" Shared His Concerns On ObamaCare And Said "The White House Is Going To Have To Step Up Its Game." "One high-ranking Democrat told The Hill that it is his leading concern. 'The White House is going to have to step up its game,' the lawmaker said." (Elise Viebeck, "Botched ObamaCare Rollout Tops Democratic Fears For 2014 Election," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 5/1/13)

IT'S NO WONDER DEMOCRATS ARE RUSHING TO CRITICIZE THE LAW – SMALL BUSINESSES AGREE THAT OBAMACARE IS BAD FOR THEM

Democrats Are Now Being More Vocal In Their Criticism Of ObamaCare, Partly Due To The Negative Effects On Small Business. "But they're more willing to support certain changes to the law, such as repealing its medical device tax. And they're more open to criticizing the implementation — particularly on an issue like choices for small businesses, which was a key part of the rhetorical push to pass healthcare reform in 2010." (Sam Baker, "ObamaCare Takes Friendly Fire," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 4/12/13)

Gallup Headline: "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them." (Dennis Jacobie, "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them," [Gallup](#), 5/10/13)

Small-Business Owners Are Worried About ObamaCare And Its Impact On Their Livelihoods. "Small-business owners are worried about the way the Affordable Care Act is going to affect their business, with about half believing the law is going to be bad for business, add to their healthcare costs, and simultaneously reduce the quality of care they and their employees receive." (Dennis Jacobie, "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them," [Gallup](#), 5/10/13)

- **"Forty-Eight Percent Of U.S. Small-Business Owners Say" That ObamaCare "Is Going To Be Bad For Their Business."** "Forty-eight percent of U.S. small-business owners say the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA) is going to be bad for their business, compared with 9% who say it is going to be good, and 39% who expect no impact." (Dennis Jacobie, "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them," [Gallup](#), 5/10/13; Gallup, 603 SBO, MoE 4%, 4/1-5/13)

55 Percent Of Small Business Owners Anticipate Health Care Costs To Increase. "In a separate question, 55% of small-business owners expect the money they pay for healthcare to increase. Five percent expect their healthcare costs to decline, while 37% say the health law will have no impact on what they pay for healthcare." (Dennis Jacobie, "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them," [Gallup](#), 5/10/13; Gallup, 603 SBO, MoE 4%, 4/1-5/13)

"52 Percent Of Owners" Say That ObamaCare Will "Reduce The Quality Of Health Care They And Their Employees Receive." "Similarly, 52% of owners say the ACA is going to reduce the quality of health care they and their employees receive. This contrasts with 13% who feel it will improve the quality of care their employees get, and 30% who see no impact." (Dennis Jacobie, "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them," [Gallup](#), 5/10/13; Gallup, 603 SBO, MoE 4%, 4/1-5/13)

Under ObamaCare, "41 Percent Of Small-Business Owners Say They Have Held Off On Hiring New Employees And 38 Percent Have Pulled Back On Plans To Grow Their Business." "When asked if they had taken any of five specific actions in response to the ACA, 41% of small-business owners say they have held off on hiring new employees and 38% have pulled back on plans to grow their business." (Dennis Jacobie, "Half of U.S. Small Businesses Think Health Law Bad for Them," [Gallup](#), 5/10/13; Gallup, 603 SBO, MoE 4%, 4/1-5/13)