

Even if it passes the House, Obamacare repeal bill may face Republican opposition in the Senate

GOP senators that may oppose the Obamacare repeal bill

Senator	Comments
Tom Cotton <i>Arkansas</i>	Urging the House GOP not to support the bill, Cotton said, "I'm afraid that if they vote for this bill, they're going to put the House majority at risk next year."
Susan Collins <i>Maine</i>	"These kinds of estimates are going to cause revisions in the bill, almost certainly. I don't think that the bill that is being considered now is the bill that ultimately will be the one that we vote on in the Senate."
Bill Cassidy <i>Florida</i>	"Can't sugarcoat it. Doesn't look good," Cassidy said, adding, "The CBO score was, shall we say, an eye-popper."
Lindsey Graham <i>South Carolina</i>	"Rather than attacking the CBO as the exclusive way of moving forward, I would think the prudent thing for the party to do is to look at the CBO report and see if we can address some of the concerns raised."
John McCain <i>Arizona</i>	"I'm concerned more ...[about] what the House bill will do to Arizona especially since they expanded Medicaid." McCain added that he would evaluate the bill further if and when it passed the House.
Lisa Murkowski <i>Alaska</i>	"Alaska is a high-cost state, low population and no competition with an aging population ... all of the demographic factors don't play well with the approach the House is taken. ... You're going to have to show me that the level of support for an Alaskan in a high-cost state is going to be fair."

Dissenting because the bill is not 'full repeal'

Senator	Comments
Mike Lee <i>Utah</i>	"We don't know how many people would use this new tax credit, we don't know how much it will cost. ...Let's fulfill our Obamacare repeal promise immediately and then take our time and do reform right. Let's pass the 2015 repeal bill."
Rand Paul <i>Kentucky</i>	"There is a solution for House Leaders that conservatives have offered: abandon Obamacare Lite now. It is bad law & it can't pass #FullRepeal," Paul tweeted.

- **Rob Portman (OH), Shelley Moore Capito (WV) and Cory Gardner (CO)** have all written to McConnell to express concern about rollbacks to Medicaid; **Dean Heller (NV)** voiced similar concerns
- **Bill Cassidy (LA)** wrote his own version of a replacement bill with Senator Collins that would lead to smaller coverage losses
- **Ted Cruz (TX)** also criticized the bill for not being 'full repeal'

Sources: The Washington Post daily 202; National Journal research; Matthew Yglesias, "Why the Obamacare repeal bill will have an even tougher time in the Senate," Vox, March 23, 2017.