

Some Florida GOP lawmakers are not on-board with American Health Care Act

By **James Williams** - March 16, 2017



Florida Republican lawmakers are not sold on the new healthcare replacement bill

Florida lawmakers are not on board at least now with Speaker of the House Paul Ryan's (R-Wisc.) American Health Care Act. At least three are saying no to Speaker Ryan's plan.

A well respected Republican Congresswoman from South Florida has said that she can't support the GOP's current plan to repeal and replace ObamaCare. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who represents part of Dade County said in a statement to the Miami Herald that she would vote no on the bill "as currently written."

Florida is the home to many elderly Americans, with about 20 percent of its population 65 and older. The CBO found elderly Americans would see some of the highest increases in

their premiums among those in the individual marketplace. Unlike other states, Florida did not expand Medicaid coverage leaving many people in the state, including many Latinos, without coverage that is available in other states.

Rep. Ros-Lehtinen pointed out that “The bill’s consequences for South Florida are clear: too many of my constituents will lose insurance and there will be less funds to help the poor and elderly with their healthcare.”

Several Republicans have expressed discomfort with the bill after an analysis from the Congressional Budget Office released Monday showed it could cause 24 million people to lose health insurance over the next 10 years.

The CBO also said older people would face steep price hikes.

According to an example provided by the CBO, a 64-year-old who earns \$26,500 a year would see her premiums increase from \$1,700 to \$14,600

Less you think that Ros-Lehtinen is not a true Conservative, “I voted to repeal Obamacare many times because it was not the right fix for our broken health care system and did not live up to its promise to the American people, but this plan is not the replacement South Florida needs,” the Congresswoman said. “We should work together to write a bipartisan bill that works for our community and our nation without hurting the elderly and disadvantaged among us.”

While Rep. Ros-Lehtinen feels the replacement law goes too far there are some Florida lawmakers that feel it does not go far enough. Rep. Ted Yoho who represents Central Florida in the Gainesville area. “My reservations are many,” the House Freedom Caucus member told PBS’s Judy Woodruff on March 14. “I like the direction we’re moving in, but I could not support the bill as it is right now.”

Finally, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio is still not on board with the plan: “Obviously it’s not 100

percent of what I would want to see,” Rubio told WJNO Radio on March 8, without detailing exactly what he’s concerned about.

Some quotes came from Associated Press

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Jim Williams is the Washington Bureau Chief, Digital Director as well as the Director of Special Projects for Genesis Communications. He is starting his third year as part of the team. This is Williams 40th year in the media business, and in that time he has served in a number of capacities. He is a seven time Emmy Award winning television producer, director, writer and executive. He has developed four regional sports networks, directed over 2,000 live sporting events including basketball, football, baseball hockey, soccer and even polo to name a few sports. Major events include three Olympic Games, two World Cups, two World Series, six NBA Playoffs, four Stanley Cup Playoffs, four NCAA Men’s National Basketball Championship Tournaments (March Madness), two Super Bowl and over a dozen college bowl games. On the entertainment side Williams was involved with Berman Concerts and directed over 500 concerts for Showtime, Pay Per View and MTV Networks.

