

The vote on the repealing and replacing of Obamacare is on – Live Coverage

By **James Williams** - March 24, 2017



The vote on getting rid of Obamacare is really now going to be close to call

For seven years Republicans has run on the message that they were going to repeal and replace Obamacare. Well today is the vote and the debate has started with Republicans looking for the 216 needed to pass their new healthcare plan.

The goal is to get an up or down vote on the bill sometime before six tonight. If the bill passes, then it goes to the Senate where they will likely rip it up and start all over again.

President Donald Trump's ultimatum to Republicans to overturn the Democratic health care law and no one, not even the people in charge of counting the votes, can say what will happen.

The intense jockeying leading up to what they hope will be an afternoon vote has produced a rare moment of genuine uncertainty in Congress. A win would be a big confidence boost for the new president, as well as for House Speaker Paul Ryan, who has staked much of his own political capital on passing the bill.

Eleventh-hour attempts to corral wavering Republicans led to some expensive deal making as the bill gets its final touches in committee. A handful of moderate Republicans — including New York Rep. Elise Stefanik and Pennsylvania Rep. Tim Murphy — hailed the addition of \$15 billion for maternity care, as well as mental health and substance.”

Already more than a dozen moderate Republicans have staked out positions against the measure. Several, including Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, New York Rep. Dan Donovan, New Jersey Rep. Leonard Lance and Iowa Rep. David Young, reiterated that opposition late when speaking to the press this morning. Several hardline House conservatives are promising to join them, from Michigan Rep. Justin Amash to Alabama Rep. Mo Brooks.

The drumbeat of anti-Ryan commentary among conservative media commentators has reached a new intensity and has spread beyond Breitbart, the news organization once run by Trump advisor Steve Bannon that has long been critical of the Speaker.

Video from Fox News.

James Williams

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.

