Senate steers toward showdown vote next week on health bill

WASHINGTON (AP) -Senate Republicans steered toward a potential showdown vote on their long-awaited health care bill next week, despite indications that they've yet to solidify the 50 GOP votes they'll need to avert an embarrassing defeat.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he expected to have a draft of the bill ready Thursday. The measure would peel away much of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and leave government with a more limited role in providing coverage and helping people afford it.

"We have to act, and we are," McConnell said on the Senate floor.

But later, he simply chortled when asked if he was confident the measure would pass, a victory that would elude him if just three of the 52 GOP senators voted no.

McConnell's ability to assess and line up votes is considered masterful, and he's eager to pass legislation fulfilling a campaign promise of President Donald Trump and countless GOP congressional candidates. But underscoring the uncertainty he faces, senators from both ends of his party's spectrum were grumbling about the bill's expected contents and the clandestine way it's being crafted.

"It's apparently being written by a small handful of staffers for members of the Republican leadership," said conservative Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, using a Facebook video for an unusually public swipe at GOP leaders.

Though a member of the 13-senator working group McConnell had tasked with piecing legislation together, Lee said he's not seen the emerging bill and "whole-heartedly" shares the

Republican Karen Handel wins Georgia House seat in key contest

DUNWOODY, Ga. (AP) — Republican Karen Handel has won a nationally watched congressional election in Georgia, avoiding an upset that would have rocked Washington ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

Her narrow victory Tuesday over Democrat Jon Ossoff in Georgia's 6th Congressional District allows Republicans a sigh of relief after what's being recognized as the most expensive House race in U.S history, with a price tag that may exceed \$50 million.

Yet the result in a historically conservative district still offers Republicans a warning - and Democrats some encouragement — that President Donald Trump's tenuous standing will dominate the looming campaign cycle. Georgia's outcome follows similar results in Montana, Kansas and South Carolina, where Republicans won special House races by much narrower margins than they managed as recently as November.

Handel, 55, becomes the latest in a line of Republicans who have represented the district since 1979, beginning with Newt Gingrich, who would become House speaker. Most recently, Tom Price resigned the post in February to join Trump's administration as health and human services secretary.

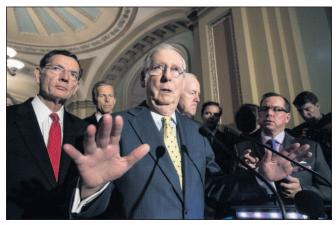
Recreational sales of marijuana in Nevada in limbo

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) - Recreational sales of marijuana in Nevada may not begin next month after all.

A judge added to the uncertainty Tuesday when he extended a temporary order preventing the state from issuing pot distribution licenses to existing medical marijuana dispensaries so they can begin recreational sales July 1.

Carson City District Judge James Wilson said in a 11-page ruling Tuesday that the ballot measure voters approved in November dictates that licensed alcohol wholesalers have the exclusive rights to pot distribution licenses for 18 months.

Wilson ruled the regulation the Nevada Tax Commission adopted in May that could have opened distribution up to others was invalid, and he granted a preliminary injunction scrapping the license application deadline that passed May 31. He said the members of the Independent Alcohol Distributors of Nevada demonstrated they will suffer irreparable harm if he doesn't block the state from licensing existing marijuana businesses as distributors. It's not clear if recreational sales still might begin next month It has been legal for adults to possess up to an ounce of marijuana in Nevada and consume it in private residences since the beginning of this year. But currently only medical dispensaries can sell it and only to people with medical card.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined by, from left, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., and Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas, speaks following a closed-door strategy session.

frustration of constituents unhappy over the secrecy. He said senators should have seen the measure "weeks ago" if the chamber is voting next week, the goal of top Republicans.

That echoed Democrats' lambasting of McConnell

Wednesday Morning

legislation in closed-door meetings. They unanimously oppose the GOP bill but lack the votes to defeat it. They fear McConnell will jam the legislation through the Senate with little debate, limiting their chance to scrutinize the

for writing the wide-ranging

against it.

"I've never heard of a more radical or a more reckless process," said Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Lawmakers, aides and lobbyists said party leaders still had decisions to make. These included how to make sure health care subsidies can't be used for policies that provide abortions, how to curb spending on the federal-state Medicaid program and how fast they can repeal tax boosts Obama levied on high earners and medical companies to finance his statute's expanded coverage.

The No. 3 Senate GOP leader, John Thune of South Dakota, said Republicans were moving toward phasing out Obama's enlargement of Medicaid to additional low-income people over five or six years. That might satisfy Republican senators from states that expanded

bill and whip up opposition their programs, but conservatives have wanted to halt the extra expenditures quickly.

Though McConnell did not schedule the vote for next week, some Republicans said they believed he would hold it either way. A loss would be a major blow for Trump and congressional Republicans, but it would let GOP senators take a definitive stance on the issue and let Republicans move on to other priorities.

"The leadership has made it clear we're going to vote, Thune said. "Hopefully we'll have 50 votes when that time comes."

At the White House, spokesman Sean Spicer said Trump "clearly wants a bill that has heart." A week ago, Trump called the version the House approved "mean." Spicer offered no specifics but said Trump wants the Senate to "strengthen it, to make it more affordable, more accessible."

June 21, 2017

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5	KOIN	19	KOIN 6 Nev	vs at 6 (N)	CBS This Morning (N)				Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		Young & Restless	
ñ	(25)KNDU	6	Wake Up N		Today Show Amy Poehler (N)				Today Show II (N)		Today Show III (N)		Million?	Million?
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AFTERNOON

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8	KPTV	3	12 O'Clock	News (N)	Wendy Will	iams	The Dr. Oz	Show	TMZ Live!		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	5 O'Clock N	lews (N)
CBS	(19) KEPR	2	NameG.	Bold & B.	The Talk (N		Let's Make	a Deal	Dr. Phil			Judge Judy	News	News (N)
5	KOIN	19	News (N)	Bold & B.	The Talk (N		The Doctors		Dr. Phil		KOIN 6 News at 4 (N)		News (N)	News (N)
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Z	KGW	8	News (N)	Paid	Days of Our	Lives	TDJakes "Po		Ellen DeGe		KGW News	(N)	News (N)	NBC News
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Cheering first day of summer? Not in Phoenix with 120 expected

PHOENIX (AP) — The first day of summer brought some of the worst heat the Southwest U.S. has seen in years, forcing flights to be canceled, straining the power grid and making life miserable for workers toiling in temperatures that reached 120 degrees in some desert cities.

Arizona is seeing some of the most dramatic temperatures Tuesday, but the heat wave is being felt across Nevada and California, too. It comes as researchers say deadly heat waves like this one are going to grow more frequent.

The forecast called for a high of 120 degrees in Phoenix, which it hasn't seen in more than two decades, and 126 in Death Valley. Palm Springs, California, hit 120, still two degrees lower than a June four years ago. The operator of California's power grid called on people to conserve electricity during peak hours.

Las Vegas also was baking. Out-of-town visitors tried to stay inside air-conditioned casinos as much as possible, and some tourists lugged packs of bottled water around the Strip. Others went to a bar where the temperature is set at 23 degrees, and glasses, walls and seats are sculpted from ice.

Brussels train station blast being treated as a 'terror attack'

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian authorities said they foiled a "terror attack" Tuesday when soldiers shot and killed a suspect after a small explosion at a busy Brussels train station that continued a week of attacks in the capitals of Europe.

Federal prosecutor Eric Van der Sypt said soldiers "neutralized" a male suspect at the Central Station immediately after the explosion there on Tuesday night. The man lay still for several hours while a bomb squad checked whether he was armed with more explosives.

Prosecutor's spokeswoman Ine Van Wymersch confirmed his death early Wednesday and said no other explosives were found on his body. Some Belgian media had reported earlier that the suspect was wearing a bomb belt.

Belgium's Crisis Center, which monitors security threats in the country, said based on initial information it did not see a need to raise the country's terror threat to the highest level and kept it at the second-highest level.

Authorities set up a wide perimeter around the station, located near the city's famed Grand Place square.

Van der Sypt said no one else was injured besides the suspect and the damage from the explosion was limited.

NIGHT OWL

	STATION		12 ам	12:30	1 ам	1:30	2 АМ	2:30	3 ам	3:30	4 ам	4:30	5 ам	5:30
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PBS	59 OPB	13	PBS NewsH	our	China "Anc	estors "	The Story o	f China	Frontline		Alzheimer	Caregiver Business		BBC News