

Budget office: Senate health bill adds 22M uninsured

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Republican health care bill would leave 22 million more Americans uninsured in 2026 than under President Barack Obama's health care law, the Congressional Budget Office estimated Monday, complicating GOP leaders' hopes of pushing the plan through the chamber this week.

Minutes after the report's release, three GOP senators threatened to oppose a pivotal vote on the proposal this week, enough to sink it unless Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., can win over some of them or other GOP critics. The bill will fail if just three of the 52 Republican senators

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— **Chuck Schumer**, Senate Minority Leader

oppose it, an event that would deal a humiliating blow to President Donald Trump and Senate leaders.

The 22 million additional people without coverage is just a hair better than the 23 million who'd be left without insurance under the measure the House approved last month, the budget office has estimated. Trump has called the House version approved last month "mean" and told Senate Republicans to approve legislation with more "heart."

In good news for the GOP,

the budget office said the Senate bill would cut the deficit by \$202 billion more over the coming decade than the House version. Senate leaders could use some of those savings to attract moderate support by making Medicaid and other provisions in their measure more generous, though conservatives would prefer using that money to reduce federal deficits.

The White House lambasted the nonpartisan budget office in a statement, saying it has a "history

of inaccuracy" projecting coverage. Democrats said the report confirmed their own analysis of the GOP measure.

"This bill is every bit as mean as the House bill," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Of the 22 million without coverage by 2026 under the Senate plan, 15 million would be without it next year, the budget office said. That could be a particular concern to moderate Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., who faces perhaps the toughest 2018 re-election race of any Senate Republican and has said he can't support the measure if huge numbers of people lose coverage.

The budget office report said coverage losses would espe-

cially affect people between ages 50 and 64, before they qualify for Medicare, and with incomes below 200 percent of poverty level, or around \$30,300 for an individual.

In one example, the report says that in 2026 under Obama's law, a 64-year-old earning \$26,500 would pay premiums amounting to \$1,700 a year, after subsidies. Under the Senate bill, that person would pay \$6,500, partly because insurers would be able to charge older adults more.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she would vote against a GOP procedural motion, expected Wednesday, to begin formally debating the legis-

lation. She tweeted that she favors a bipartisan effort to fix Obama's 2010 statute but added, "CBO analysis shows Senate bill won't do it."

In addition, conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said he would oppose that motion unless the bill was changed. And fellow conservative Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said he had "a hard time believing" he'd have enough information to back that motion this week.

Those two — plus fellow conservatives Mike Lee of Utah and Ted Cruz of Texas — have said the current measure doesn't do enough to erase Obama's law and reduce premiums. All four said last week they'd oppose the bill without changes, as did Heller.



AP Photo/Susan Walsh
President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hug while making statements at the White House on Monday.

Trump, Modi exchange hugs in Rose Garden

WASHINGTON (AP) — So much for handshakes. President Donald Trump found out Monday that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a hugger.

Modi swooped in for two big bear hugs with the U.S. president during their joint statements in the Rose Garden, wrapping his arms around Trump's midsection and ending their first embrace with a lingering handshake that stretched the president's arm between their two lecterns.

After wrapping up his own remarks, the much shorter Modi hugged Trump a second time, placing his head close to the president's shoulder in video that quickly spread around social media.

Modi offered yet another embrace as he departed the White House. After shaking Trump's hand, Modi went in for a third and final public hug — resting his head first near Trump's left shoulder, then near his right. Trump welcomed the parting gesture, patting Modi kindly on the back.

Trump welcomed Modi to the White House for their first in-person meeting and both sought to convey warm relations between the two global powers. The president said he had lived up to his campaign promise to give India "a true friend in the White House" and announced that daughter Ivanka Trump had accepted an invitation to visit India this fall.

CNN accepts resignations of three involved in retracted story

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN accepted the resignations Monday of three journalists involved in a retracted story about a supposed investigation into a pre-inaugural meeting between an associate of President Donald Trump and the head of a Russian investment fund.

The story was posted on the network's website on Thursday and was removed, with all links disabled, Friday night. CNN immediately apologized to Anthony Scaramucci, the Trump transition team member who was reported to be involved in the meeting.

The story's author, Thomas Frank, was among those who resigned, according to a network executive who requested anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss personnel issues. Also losing their jobs were Eric Lichtblau, an assistant managing editor in CNN's Washington bureau, and Lex Harris, head of the investigations unit.

CNN, in initially taking down the story, said it didn't meet its editorial standards.

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