Uncertainty reigns ahead of new health care sign-up period

By BARBARA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Jason Sanford has heard so many rumors about the changing health care landscape that every few weeks he dials a local information desk, seeking just a rough estimate of what his diabetes medication will soon cost him.

The answer is the same every time: It's too early to say, even with the next open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act beginning in two weeks.

"It's just hearsay," said the 55-year-old sales representative from Davenport. "There's no channel for information that I'm getting anywhere."

After several failed attempts in Congress to repeal and replace the 2010 health care law, Americans across the country are grappling with unanswered questions about how "Obamacare" will function during the six-week sign-up period beginning Nov. 1.

The confusion is especially pronounced in Iowa, which is seeking last-minute federal approval to revamp its individual insurance market.

Uncertainty has mounted in recent days amid a push by President Donald Trump to allow the purchase of skimpier insurance plans than the ACA requires and a move by the president to cut off federal payments that help keep consumer costs down. Then on Tuesday, some senators announced a tentative agreement to continue those payments.

What it all means for Iowa isn't clear. Its proposal, known as the stopgap measure, would be unlike any other state's health insurance market. It would replace the variety of plans from which people can choose with just one plan for everyone, and the cost would be based not just on income, but on age.

Critics say it could prove more expensive for individuals with high-cost medical needs. State officials argue the higher out-of-pocket expenses would be offset by lower monthly premiums.

Gail Orcutt, of the Des Moines suburb of Pleasant Hill, receives costly chemotherapy for lung cancer. She attended some meetings over the summer on the stopgap measure, though she said she left confused.

Because she doesn't know what her costs will be next year, she is considering putting off some periodic scans that help detect if her disease is spreading.

"I just might need to skip those until I'm on Medicare," said the 64-year-old retired elementary school teacher, who will be eligible in May for the national health program for older Americans.

Reyma McCoy McDeid hears concerns like Orcutt's almost every morning when she listens to voicemails from strangers who have called into the Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, a disabled-services center where she is executive director.

She tries to provide as much as information as she can — which often is little more than the callers already know.

"I listen," she said. "I think that's something that people are needing right now. I think a lot of people are overwhelmed. Health care is an extremely important part of being alive, and people are feeling really vulnerable."

Jennifer Busch, who typically answers Sanford's calls about diabetes, is one of a small number of federally funded "navigators" in Iowa whose job is to help people enroll in the insurance marketplace. For now, she offers only general answers because she hasn't received word from the state on how everything would work under the stopgap.

"It's difficult to reassure people because I don't know what the picture looks like either," said Busch, who works for Genesis Health System.

Some health care experts say if Iowa's plan is approved in the next two weeks, there won't be enough time to inform people adequately about the changes.

"It's just hard to imagine there's not going to be mass confusion," said Timothy Jost, a retired professor at Washington and Lee University's law school.

AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall

Gail Orcutt counts her medication at the kitchen table in her home, Tuesday in Pleasant Hill, Iowa.

GOP, Dem senators push health deal as Trump keeps distance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The authors of a bipartisan plan to calm health insurance markets said Wednesday they'll push the proposal forward, even as President Donald Trump's stance ricocheted from supportive to disdainful to arm's-length and the plan's fate teetered.

"If something can happen, that's fine," Trump told reporters at the White House. "But I won't do anything to enrich the insurance companies because right now the insurance companies are being enriched. They've been enriched by Obamacare like nothing anybody has ever seen before."

The agreement by Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., on a two-year extension of federal subsidies to insurers that Trump has blocked gained an important new foe. The anti-abortion National Right to Life said it opposed the measure because it lacked language barring people from using their federally subsidized coverage to buy policies covering abortion, said Jennifer Popik, the group's top lobbyist.

In another blow, Doug Andres, spokesman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said Ryan "does not see anything that changes his view that the Senate should keep its focus on repeal and replace of Obamacare." With hard-right conservatives wielding considerable influence and unwilling to prop up President Barack Obama's health care law, it was unclear if Ryan would be willing to even bring the measure to his chamber's floor.

Overall, it was a bad day for the bipartisan accord, with several Republicans conceding that it likely needed Trump's backing to survive.

Gender equality perception splits down party lines

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Does the United States still have hard work ahead of it in enabling women to attain equality with men? The answer, according to a new large-scale survey, may depend on whether it's coming from a Democrat or a Republican.

The survey, released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center , found a sharp partisan divide on several questions related to gender equality.

According to Pew, Democrats are largely dissatisfied with the nation's progress on this issue — 69 percent say the U.S. hasn't gone far enough when it comes to giving women equal rights. Among Republicans, 54 percent say things are about right; only 26 percent say the country has more work to do.

Do American men have easier lives than women? Another big partisan gap: 49 percent of Democrats say this is true, compared to 19 percent of Republicans.

Among Democrats, those with a college education are far more likely than those with no college experience to express dissatisfaction with the current state of gender equality. While 81 percent of Democrats with at least a bachelor's degree said the U.S. hasn't gone far enough in giving women equal rights, that view was shared by only 55 percent of Democrats with a high school diploma or less. There were no significant education gaps among Republicans in views of the state of gender equality.

Pew's researchers also inquired about personal experiences with gender discrimination.

Overall, 43 percent of women said they have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly because of their gender, compared to 18 percent of men.

Democratic women were more likely than GOP women to say they experienced such discrimination — 51 percent versus 34 percent. Among men, it's Republicans who more often say they suffered gender discrimination — 20 percent compared to 14 percent of Democratic men.

Large majorities in both parties — 89 percent of Democrats and 74 percent of Republicans — said it's very important for women to have equal rights with men in the U.S. The perceptions differed on where the country is in achieving that goal.

The Pew report did not seek to analyze reasons for the partisan gap. Christina Hoff Sommers, a former philosophy professor who is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, suggested the reasons were complex, but added this observation:

"The Republican Party is the daddy party; the Democratic Party, the mommy party. And now mom's a Feminist," she wrote in an email.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING — OCTOBER 19, 2017

		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11	Paid Program	Paterni-ty Court	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	Judge Mathis		The People's Court		Two and a Half	Mom	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Modern Family	Modern Family	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Gotham "The Blade's Path" (N)		The Orville "Old Wounds"		First at Ten (N)	:35 Dateline		:35 Mike & Molly
	KPTV	3	12 O' News (N)		Wendy Williams		O.Space	Nature	People's Court		Judy	Judy (N)	News (N)		News (N)		Feud	Feud	Gotham (N)		The Orville		News (N)		News	Page Six
CBS	19 KEPR	2	Funn-yAsk	Bold & B.	The Talk (N)		Let's Make a Deal		Dr. Phil		Judge Judy (N)	NFL Kick (L)	NFL Kick (L)	:25 NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Oakland Raiders Site: Oakland Alameda Coliseum (L)					:15 Action News Special		The Big Bang	Inside Edition	TheSi-mpsons	Judge Judy	News (N)	:35 Colbert
	KOIN	19	News	B & B	The Talk (N)		The Doctors		Dr. Phil		News	NFL Kick	NFL Kick	:25 NFL Football Kansas City vs Oakland (L)					:15 KOIN Local 6				Extra	ET	News	Colbert
NBC	25 KNDU	6	TMZ	Paid Program	Days of Our Lives		Hot Bench	Hot Bench	The Wendy Williams Show		Ellen DeGeneres HAIM (N)		News (N)	NBCN-ews (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel Fortune	Jeop-ardy!	Super-store (N)	GoodP-lace (N)	W&G-race (N)	Great News	Chicago Fire "A Breaking Point" (N)		News (N)	:35 Tonight
	KGW	8	News	Paid	Days of Our Lives		Portland Today		E.DeGeneres (N)		KGW News (N)		News	News	KGW News (N)		News	InsEd.	Super	GoodPla	WGrace	Gr. News	Chicago Fire (N)		News	Tonight
ABC	42 KVEW	4	The Chew		General Hospital		The Doctors		The Rachael Ray Show (N)		The Dr. Oz Show		News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Extra	Charlie Brown	Toy Story	Scandal "Day 101" (N)		How to Get Away With Murder (N)		News (N) /:05 Jimmy Kimmel	
	KATU	5	The Chew		General Hospital		Harry		Afternoon Live		KATU News (N)		News	News	KATU News (N)		Jeop. (N)	Wheel	C.Brown	ToyStory	Scandal (N)		With Murder (N)		News	Kimmel
PBS	31 KTNW		Charlie Rose		Milk Street	Knit and Crochet	Esmon-de Tech.	Arthur	Arthur	Martha Speaks	Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Biz Kid$	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		A Conversation With Bill Moyers			Carole King Tapestry Live From Hyde Park, London			Boom Bust Boom		Charlie Rose (N)	
	59 OPB	13	Painting / Travel	Moveabl e Feast	Charlie Rose (N)		Nature Cat	Thomas-Friends	Cat in the Hat	Martha Speaks	Ready Jet Go!	Odd Squad	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts	Mickela Mallozi	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Art Beat (N)	Oregon (N)	Mids-omer M.	:45 Midsomer M. "King's Crystal"	:35 Masterpiece "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride"			
CABLE	A&E	52	Cold Case Files		Cold Case Files		Cold Case Files		Cold Case Files		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The Eleven (N)		The Eleven		:05 The First 48	
	AMC	60	Army of Dark...		Walking Dead		Walking Dead		Dead "After"		Dead "Inmates"		Dead "Claimed"		Dead "Still"		Dead "Alone"		Dead "The Grove"		Dead "Us"		Walking Dead (N)		Dead "A"	
	ANPL	24	Pit Bull Parolees		Pit Bull Parolees		Untamed&Uncut		Untamed&Uncut		Be Alive		Be Alive		Be Alive		Inside Me		Inside Me		Inside Me		I Was Prey		Inside Me	
	CMT	43	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Cowboys Cheer.		10 Things I Hate About You					Rose.	Pickler & Ben	
	CNBC	72	Closing Bell				Fast Money		Mad Money		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Rich (N)	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich	Rich	Paid Program	
	CNN	68	CNN Newsroom		The Lead		The Situation		The Situation		OutFront		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight		CNN Tonight		A. Cooper 360		A. Cooper 360		CNN Tonight	
	DISC	51	Bush People		Bush People		Bush People		Bush People		Bush People		Bush People		Bush People		Bush "Bush Code"		Bush People		Bush People		Bush People		Bush People	
	DISN	26	Sofia1st	Disney Junior		PJ Masks	Pat-Dog	Transyl	Tangled	Raven's.	Bunk'd	StuckMid	Andi M.	Bizaard.	Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Andi M.	StuckMid	Bizaard.	Raven's.	Underc.	Liv/Mad	Bizaard.	Raven's.
	ESPN	33	NBA: The Jump (L)		SportsN	Highly?	Horn (N)	Interrupt	SportsCenter (N)		Football C. (L)		NCAA Football Memphis at Houston (L)						SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
	ESPN2	34	NFL Live		Talk (L)		Fantasy	Football	Horn	Interrupt	SprtC		H.S. Football -- Kennesaw, Ga. (L)					SprtC	Boxing Golden Boy (L)				Nación ESPN (N)		J & J	Featured
	FNC	66	Shepard Smith		Your World		The Five		Special Report		The Story		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		Fox News Tonight		Tucker Carlson		Hannity		The Story		Tucker Carlson	
	FOOD	61	Cake Wars		Pioneer	Pioneer	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	Chopped		Chopped		Chopped (N)		BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay	BeatFlay
	FREE	32	The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2				:35 The Haunted Mansion				:40 The Addams Family				:45 Addams Family Values				:50 Hocus Pocus ('93, Com) Bette Midler.				The 700 Club			
	FX	65	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mother	2½Men	2½Men	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Ride Along ('14, Act/Com) Ice Cube.				Grown Ups 2 Adam Sandler.				Better	Better	Better	Movie
	GOLF	88	LPGA Golf Taiwan Championship				Golf C.	PGA Golf CJ Cup Site: Nine Bridges -- Jeju Island, Korea								Golf C.	PGA Golf CJ Cup Site: Nine Bridges -- Jeju Island, Korea (L)								PGA Golf CJ Cup	
	GSN	76	Reaction	Reaction	The Chase		Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Divided	Divided	Feud	Feud	CashCb	CashCb	Divided	Divided	Feud	Feud	Baggage	Baggage
	HALL	87	Home and Family				Stop the Wedding Rachel Boston.				Love on the Sidelines Emily Kinny.				Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	G. Girls	G. Girls
	HGTV	62	Fixer Upper		FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipFlop	FlipVega	FlipVega	H.Hunt	House	H.Hunt	House
	HIST	50	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Pawn S.	Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire		:55 Forged/Fire "Weapons of War" (N)				Ice Truckers (N)		:05 Ice Truckers	
	LIFE	29	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's Anatomy		Grey's "Holidaze"		Am. Beauty Star		Project Runway		Runway	PRunway	Project Runway (N)			A.BeautyStar (N)		TBA
	NICK	27	Machines	PAW	PAW	PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	H.Danger	H.Danger	Dude Per	Shrek Forever After				Fresh P.	Fresh P.	Friends	Friends
	ROOT	37	Paid	Paid	The Dan Patrick Show (N)						UEFA Soccer Europa League GUI/Mars.				Champions Tennis Legends				Fantasy Hour (N)		Press (N)	Press	NCAA Football Vir./UNC			
	SPIKE	42	Saving Privat...				Goodfellas ('90, Cri) Joe Pesci, Ray Liotta.				Taken ('08, Thril) Liam Neeson.				Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Taken ('08, Thril) Liam Neeson.				Goodfellas	
	SYFY	67	Horns ('14, Dra) Daniel Radcliffe, Juno Temple.				Joy Ride 3: Road Kill Ken Kirzinger.				Jennifer's Body ('09, Hor) Megan Fox.				The Faculty Jordana Brewster.				Van Helsing (N)		Ghost Wars (N)				Trick'r Treat	
	TBS	59	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Clevela.	Clevela.	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Post Pre-Game (L)		MLB Baseball National League Championship Series (L)					MLB	Fam.Guy	Fam.Guy	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Conan			
	TCM	56	:15 Trader Horn Harry Carey.				:15 Adventure Girl				Manhunt in the Jungle		The Crowd James Murray.				Sounder Cicely Tyson.				Night of the Hunter				Walkabout	
	TLC	49	Four Weddings		Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	The Little Couple		The Little Couple		Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life		My 600-lb Life	
	TNT	57	Supernatural		Supernatural		Bones		Bones		Bones		NBA Basketball New York vs Oklahoma (L)				NBA Basketball L.A. Clippers vs L.A. Lakers (L)						Inside the NBA		NBA Basketball	
	UNI	21	Notic.	Hoy	Hoy		Como dice dicho		Las Amazonas		El gordo y la flaca		Primer impacto		P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe		Enamorandome		Mi marido tiene		Caer en Tentacion		Impacto	Noticie.
	USA	58	SVU "Folly"		SVU "Manhunt"		SVU "Rage"		SVU "Pure"		SVU "Intoxicated"		SVU "Blood"		Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Diary of a Mad Black Woman				Diary of a Mad Black W...			
	WE	118	Law & Order: C.I.		Law & Order: C.I.		Law:CI "Cadaver"		Law:CI "Icarus"		Mary Mary		Mary Mary		Mary Mary (N)		Mary Mary		Mary Mary		Mary Mary		Mary Mary		Mary Mary	
	WGN		Blue Bloods		Blue Bloods		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Rules	Rules
PREMIUM	HBO	518	Spielber	:45 Crooklyn Alfre Woodard.			:40 Dark Water				:25 Adaptation				:20 Felipe Esparza			News	Hidden Figures Taraji P. Henson.				:10 R.104	:40 Curb	:15 Spielberg	
	HBO2	520	Fifty Shades ...		:55 Popstar: Never Sto...		:25 Good Will Hunting				:35 La La Land Emma Stone.					LastWk	:15 Enthusiasm	VICE	R. 104		Tokyo	:35 Fifty Shades Darker			:35 Deuce	
	HBO3	521	The Conjuring			:25 Eraser			:25 War Dogs Jonah Hill.				:25 Down With Love				:10 The Terminator				Eraser Arnold Schwarzenegger.				War Dogs	
	MAX	549	Sideways			:40 Heartbreak Ridge			TourBus /:50 Reign of Fire Christian Bale.				The Color of Money						Dead Calm Sam Neill.		:40 A Bigger Splash Tilda Swinton.				Movie	
	SHOW	578	:55 Notting Hill Hugh Grant.				Mother's Day Britt Robertson.				Hardball				:50 Contracted				:15 Cell ('16, Hor) John Cusack.		White	White	Ray Donovan		Gigolos	White
	STARZ	621	:10 The 5th Wave				Remorse	Remorse	:05 Mrs. Doubtfire				:15 Seven Pounds Will Smith.				:20 The Ugly Truth				Remorse	Remorse	Final Destination 2			Remorse
	STZENC	644	:15 The House Bunny			:55 Pride & Prejudice & Zombies			:45 The Ladies Man				:10 Regarding Henry				Patriot Games Harrison Ford.				Phantoms			:40 Hollywoodland		

THURSDAY LATE NIGHT & FRIDAY MORNING

		12 AM	12:30	1 AM	1:30	2 AM	2:30	3 AM	3:30	4 AM	4:30	5 AM	5:30	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
FOX	11 KFFX	11	:05 Anger M.	:35 The Game	:05 CR TV Featuring a selection of products and services.							CR TV		AgDay	The Game	Good Day				Paid Program	Into the Wild	Steve!		Crime Watch Daily (N)	
	KPTV	3	TMZ Live!		Celebr-ity Page	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	King of Queens	Paid Program	Paid Program	This Minute	News (N)	Good Day Oregon at 5 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon at 6 a.m. (N)		Good Day Oregon (N)			MORE Good Day Oregon (N)		The 700 Club		The Rachael Ray Show (N)	
CBS	19 KEPR	2	The Late Show	:35 James Corden Michael Keaton		:35 Paid Program	:05 CBS Overnight News					Morning News	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	CBS This Morning (N)			Harry		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
	KOIN	19	The Late Show	:35 James Corden Michael Keaton		:35 KOIN 6 News	:05 CBS Overnight News				Morning News	News (N)	KOIN 6 News at 5 a.m. (N)		KOIN 6 News at 6 a.m. (N)		CBS This Morning (N)			Let's Make a Deal		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
NBC	25 KNDU	6	Tonight Show	:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers		:35 Last Call	:05 Today Show		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	Wake Up Northwest (N)				Today Show (N)				Megyn Kelly Today (N)		Today Jeff Bridges (N)		Millio-naire?	Millio-naire?
	KGW	8	Tonight Show	:35 Late Night With Seth Meyers		:35 Last Call	:05 Steve!		Early Today	Early Today	Early Today	News (N)	KGW News at Sunrise (N)		KGW News at Sunrise (N)		Today Show (N)			Megyn Kelly Today (N)		Today Jeff Bridges (N)		Daily Blast (N)	Daily Blast
ABC	42 KVEW	4	:05 Nightl.	:35 This Minute	:05 ABC World News Now Featuring the morning's top stories and breaking news from around the world.						America Morning	Nort-hwest	Nort-west	Nort-hwest	Nort-hwest	Good Morning America (N)				Live Kyra Sedgwick		The View		Paid Program	This Minute
	KATU	5	Jimmy Kimmel	:35 Nightl.	:05 Paid Program	:35 Paid Program	:05 ABC World News Now				America Morning	News (N)	KATU News This Morning (N)			Good Morning America (N)				AM Northwest		The View		Live Kyra Sedgwick	
PBS	31 KTNW		Doc Martin "Blood Is Thicker"		This Old House Hour		Roots "Puritans and Pioneers"		Antique "Baton Rouge (Hour Two)"		Nature "Animal Reunions"	Nova "Secrets of the Forbidden City"		Esmon-de Tech.	Happy Yoga	Thomas-Friends	Wild Kratts	Nature Cat	Curious George	Sesame Street	Super WHY!	Daniel Tiger	Dinosa-ur Train	Splash & Bubbles	Sit and Be Fit
	59 OPB	13	:05 PBS NewsHour		:05 Nature "Animal Reunions"		:05 Nova		Frontline "Fight for Mosul"		Erie: The Canal	Nightly Business	World News	Esmon-de Tech.	Wild Kratts	Nature Cat	Curious George	Curious George	Daniel Tiger	Daniel Tiger	Splash & Bubbles	Splash & Bubbles	Sesame Street	Sesame Street	Bob the Builder	