

Congress Sends White House Landmark Health Overhaul House Votes on Party Lines, 219 to 212

By ROBERT PEAR
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WASHINGTON — House Democrats approved a far-reaching overhaul of the nation's health system on Sunday, voting over unanimous Republican opposition to provide medical coverage to tens of millions of uninsured Americans after an epic political battle that could define the differences between the parties for years.

With the 219-to-212 vote, the House gave final approval to legislation passed by the Senate on Christmas Eve. Thirty-four Democrats joined Republicans in voting against the bill. The measure now goes to President Obama, whose yearlong push for the legislation has been the centerpiece of his agenda and a test of his political power.

After approving the bill, the House adopted a package of changes to it by a vote of 220 to 211. That package — agreed to in negotiations among House and Senate Democrats and the White House — now goes to the Senate for action as soon as this week in what would be the final step in a bitter legislative fight that has highlighted the nation's deep partisan and ideological divisions.

On a sun-splashed day outside the Capitol, protesters, urged on by House Republicans, chanted, "Kill the bill" and waved yellow flags declaring, "Don't Tread on Me." They carried signs saying, "Doctors, Not Dictators."

Inside, Democrats hailed the votes as a historic advance in social justice, comparable to the establishment of Medicare and Social Security. They said the bill would also put downward pressure on health care costs and rein in federal budget deficits.

"This is the Civil Rights Act of the 21st century," said Representative James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, the No. 3 Democrat in the House.

After a year of combat and weeks of legislative brinkmanship, House Democrats and the White House clinched their victory only hours before the voting started on Sunday. They agreed to a deal with opponents of abortion rights within their party to reiterate in an executive order

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Health Care Reform Meets Key Benchmarks

Fully paid for – reduces short- and long-term deficits



Expands coverage to 94% of Americans



Promotes choice and competition



Reforms insurance market



Improves quality of care – reforms delivery system



Health Care Reform Helps North Dakota Consumers and Businesses

- **Ends insurance abuses.** Insurers will no longer be able to deny coverage for you or your children because of pre-existing conditions or raise premiums when you get sick.
- **Tax breaks for small businesses.** Small businesses will get tax credits to help buy coverage for their workers.
- **Insures young people.** Young North Dakotans will be able to stay on their parents' health insurance until age 26.
- **Expands coverage.** North Dakotans without employer provided coverage will get more choices of health plans and tax credits to make health coverage more affordable.
- **Helps workers.** Workers can change jobs without fear of losing health coverage.
- **Improves Medicare.** Seniors will get preventive services without co-payments, and the gap in prescription drug coverage will be eliminated.
- **Lowers costs.** Premiums for the same level of coverage will be lower after health reform than they would have been without it.

CBO Estimate of Health Care Reform

By Fiscal Year, in Billions of Dollars

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-2014	2010-2019
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NET CHANGES IN THE DEFICIT¹

Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Budget Deficit	4	-3	-14	-53	-38	-16	10	6	-3	-11	-104	-118
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Sources: Congressional Budget Office and staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT).

Note: CBO estimate of H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

CBO on Health Care Reform Reducing Long-Term Deficits

“CBO expects that the legislation, if enacted, would reduce federal budget deficits over the decade after 2019 relative to those projected under current law – with a total effect during that decade that is in a broad range between one-quarter percent and one-half percent of GDP.

– CBO Analysis of H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

March 11, 2010

Health Care Reform – Expands Coverage

- **Covers 94 percent of Americans by building off of existing employer-based system**
- **Creates state-based exchanges for individuals and small businesses**
- **Provides tax credits to help individuals and small businesses buy insurance**
- **Expands Medicaid eligibility, with assistance to states**

Health Care Reform – Reforms Insurance Market

- **Prohibits insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions**
- **Prohibits insurers from rescinding coverage**
- **Bans insurers from lifetime caps and unreasonable annual limits on health benefits**
- **Prevents insurers from charging more based on health status**

Health Care Reform – Improves Quality of Care

- Covers preventive services**
- Provides incentives for healthy lifestyles**
- Promotes adoption of best practices, comparative effectiveness research**
- Includes delivery system reforms – encouraging quality over quantity of care**

Delivery System Reforms in Health Care Reform

- **Accountable Care Organizations**
- **Primary Care Payment Bonus**
- **Readmissions**
- **Hospital Value-Based Purchasing**
- **Comparative Effectiveness Research**
- **CMS Innovation Center**
- **Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB)**
- **Bundling**

North Dakota Health Care Organizations Supporting Reform Plan

ND Hospital Association

ND Medical Association

ND Nurses Association

ND AARP

**Community HealthCare
Association of the Dakotas**

Innovis

Debunking the Myths

- **No government-run health care**
- **No cut in guaranteed benefits for seniors**
- **No coverage for illegal immigrants**
- **No “death panels”**
- **No expansion of federal funding for abortion services**

Reconciliation Being Used Correctly for Limited Health Care “Fixer” Bill

- Limited modifications to comprehensive health bill which passed Senate with 60 votes
- Fully paid for – includes additional deficit reduction
- Budget-related provisions only – no changes on strictly policy matters

Health Care “Fixes” in Reconciliation Bill

- **Improve affordability of health care**
- **Eliminate gap in Medicare drug coverage**
- **Adjust amount of federal aid going to states for Medicaid**
- **Further reduce overpayments to Medicare Advantage**
- **Take additional steps to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse**

Education Provisions in Reconciliation Bill

- **Expand Pell Grants**
- **Eliminate bank-based student lending (FFEL)**
- **Support historically black colleges**
- **Extend funding for higher education**

Number of times reconciliation used since 1980

22

**Number of times reconciliation used with
Republicans controlling Senate**

16

Senator Gregg on Use of Reconciliation

“Reconciliation is a rule of the Senate set up under the Budget Act.... The fact is, all this rule of the Senate does is allow a majority of the Senate to take a position and pass a piece of legislation, support that position. Is there something wrong with majority rules? I don’t think so. The reason the Budget Act was written in this way was to allow certain unique issues to be passed with a majority vote. That is all that is being asked for here.”

**– Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)
Senate Floor Statement on Use of Reconciliation
to Open Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Drilling
March 16, 2005**

CBO Estimate of Combined Effect of Health Care Reform and Reconciliation

By Fiscal Year, in Billions of Dollars

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2010-2014	2010-2019
NET CHANGES IN THE DEFICIT¹												
Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Budget Deficit	6	1	-10	-56	-51	-20	3	4	-5	-15	-109	-143

Sources: Congressional Budget Office and staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT).

CBO on Combined Effect of Health Care Reform and Reconciliation on Long-Term Deficits

“...[T]he combined effect of enacting [the Senate bill] and the reconciliation proposal would ... be to reduce federal budget deficits over the ensuing decade [beyond 2019] relative to those projected under current law – with a total effect during that decade in a broad range around one-half percent of GDP.”

**– CBO Analysis of Health Care Reform and Reconciliation Combined
March 20, 2010**