

Talking Points: FY 2018 Budget Resolution and Health Care  
September 29, 2017

The 2018 Senate budget resolution released today would let the Senate repeal most of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and/or adopt additional deep cuts to Medicaid with just 50 votes, while at the same time cutting taxes by \$1.5 trillion or more for high-income households and corporations.

- **The budget resolution’s “reconciliation instructions” would allow the Senate take up ACA repeal and/or additional Medicaid cuts – not just tax cuts – and pass them with just 50 votes.**
  - The resolution instructs the Finance Committee to make changes to *deficits*, not *revenues*. That means the Senate can use fast track procedures for a bill that cuts Medicaid or other coverage programs.
  - The fact that the resolution does not include a reconciliation instruction for the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee has little impact, since the Finance Committee has jurisdiction over Medicaid, premium tax credits, the individual and employer mandates, and other key provisions.
  
- **Senate Republican leaders have [made clear](#) that they plan to make another attempt at repealing the ACA. While some have said that they plan to wait to pursue repeal until the spring, adopting this budget resolution would allow them to pursue repeal at any time.**
  - Rather than moving forward with bipartisan efforts to improve the health care system, Senate Republican leaders have [confirmed](#) that they will keep pursuing partisan repeal.
  - While some Senate leaders have said they will wait and pursue ACA repeal in the spring (using the 2019 budget resolution), the 2018 budget resolution is written to allow the Senate to take up ACA repeal bills similar to those considered and rejected this year.
  
- **The only difference is that ACA repeal could now be coupled with even larger tax cuts for high-income people and corporations than were included in earlier bills.**
  - Earlier this year, some Republican Senators [rejected](#) the idea of including hundreds of billions tax cuts in the same bill that would take away coverage from millions.
  - But the Senate budget would let Congress use fast track reconciliation procedures to cut taxes by at least \$1.5 trillion, and congressional Republicans and the White House have already promised to use these procedures to enact tax cuts worth an average of [\\$800,000 per year](#) for the top 0.1 percent (households with incomes over \$3.8 million).
  - What’s more, for every dollar Senate Republicans cut from coverage programs, their budget would allow them to cut an *additional* dollar in taxes (on top of the \$1.5 trillion).
  
- **The Senate budget resolution also exposes another deception at the heart of the most recent ACA repeal attempt.**
  - This week, Senator Graham [defended](#) his repeal bill’s large cuts to Medicaid as necessary to bring federal deficits down.
  - Next week, as a member of the Budget Committee, Senator Graham will likely vote for a budget that explicitly instructs Congress to “increase the deficit” by \$1.5 trillion by cutting taxes.