



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 2, 2017

Contact: Bart Tapp, Media Relations Chair
(801) 566-6105 or bart@usdentistdirect.com

Topic: Future of Healthcare Reform

Dear Editor,

After Senate Republicans failed to repeal and replace portions of Obamacare over the past few weeks, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, says it's time to leave the issue behind for now. Now is not the time to look at health insurance reform from the rearview mirror. Lawmakers must do something to steady the unstable health insurance market before it fails, or worse, before single-payor rhetoric gains traction. Of course, many would love to see the healthcare market return to the way it was before Obamacare; however, it's time for Republicans to realize that repealing and replacing Obamacare is politically infeasible. They can't even garner 50 votes amongst themselves to change some of the major provision in Obamacare, let alone gather the 8 Democrat votes needed for a full repeal and replace.

Conservative lawmakers need to leave behind the notion that they can do this on their own by reaching across the political aisle. The National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU) supports efforts that could potentially attract bipartisan support from legislators to help stabilize the marketplaces. NAHU has long advocated for making piecemeal changes to the ACA that can achieve bipartisan support, and therefore pass Congress and be signed into law. NAHU has been able to garner bipartisan support on a number of smaller changes to the ACA. Without a clear plan to repeal and replace significant portions of the ACA, NAHU will continue to advocate for changes to the law where lawmakers can find consensus in order to stabilize the market.

May lawmakers come together, no matter their political affiliation, to support legislation to remedy imperfections in a law that is here to stay. Action must be taken to slow down health insurance premium increases.

Craig Paulson

President, Utah Association of Health Underwriters
Owner, Altura Benefits