

# Covering Republican Efforts to Repeal and Replace the ACA

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# Committees to Watch

## SENATE

- **Senate Finance Committee:** Chairman is Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. Ranking member is Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.
- **Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee:** Chairman is Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn. Ranking member is Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

## HOUSE

- **House Ways and Means Committee:** Chairman is Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Tex. Ranking member is Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass.
- **House Energy and Commerce Committee:** Chairman is Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. Ranking member is Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J.
- Sign up for their press lists, find out if your local lawmaker is a member.
- Watch ACA hearings and “markups” where legislation is developed.
- Pay attention to GOP leadership.

# Focus On Local Lawmakers

- Contact both local and DC offices so they know who you are and that you're interested in the ACA overhaul debate.
- Find out the best contact for press inquiries.
  - That may be the DC office.
  - Go to [Senate.gov](http://Senate.gov) or [House.gov](http://House.gov) to find your member's website, click on Newsroom or Press tab to find out who handles press inquiries. Who is the key staff person on health care? Start talking to them now.
- Talk to your local delegation about key legislative disputes.
  - What are their concerns about various GOP ACA replacement plans?
  - What are these lawmakers doing to make sure their concerns are heard?
  - How are they trying to shape the process?
- Who are your lawmakers talking to in your home district/state for guidance?

# Questions to Ask About GOP Replacement Plans

- How many people will be covered?
- What health care services are covered?
- Are pre-existing conditions covered?
- How much will these plans cost?
- Is there financial assistance to help people afford coverage? How is it structured?
- What's the impact on the federal budget?
- Does the plan help control health care costs?
- Will there be a requirement that people have coverage (continuous coverage, late enrollment penalties)?

# What About That ACA Executive Order?

- On Jan. 20, President Trump signed [an executive order](#) to minimize the “Economic Burden” of the ACA “pending repeal.”
- Great [KHN explainer](#) by Julie Rovner: Wording of executive order is strong. Actual impact may be weak.
- Order has no immediate effect/doesn’t grant new powers to federal agencies.
- May signal future action in variety of areas: Waive individual and/or employer mandates, alter or eliminate “essential health benefits,” provide greater state flexibility through section 1332 ACA waivers and Medicaid waivers.
- May be an effort to apply additional pressure to GOP to come up with replacement plan.

# How Will Democrats Respond to GOP ACA Repeal Efforts?

- Democrats will fight against efforts to weaken the ACA. Beyond reconciliation provisions (revenue) that need just 51 votes, GOP will need Dem support in Senate to meet 60 vote margin to stop filibuster on ACA rewrite provisions.
- 23 Democrats plus two independents who caucus with Dems are [up for reelection](#) in 2018. Will those in vulnerable districts want to work with Republicans on an ACA replacement?
- Many of the seats these Democrats must defend are in states won by President Donald Trump.
- [Potentially vulnerable Senate Democrats include](#) Bill Nelson of Florida, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Donnelly of Indiana.

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