



KEA President's Points

July 26, 2017



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Good Afternoon,

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate voted to move forward with consideration of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. During the vote all 48 Democrats along with Republican Senators Murkowski (R-AK) and Collins (R-ME) voted NO, so with a 50-50 tie Vice President Pence cast the tie-breaking vote to proceed to debate of the ACA repeal and replace efforts. Nothing has passed the Senate yet, and there are no guarantees an outright repeal and replace will advance.

TAKE ACTION

So now what? The Senate now has 20 hours of debate and a series of amendments to the legislation being considered called Vote-a-Rama. The Vote-a-Rama is a process where many amendments are offered by Senators to change the legislation being considered by the chamber. Among the many amendments that the Senate is expected to consider are major ones that 1) seek to repeal the ACA without replacing it, 2) repeal and replace (similar to the House bill), and 3) an amendment being termed a "skinny" repeal that would repeal the individual mandate, the employer mandate, and various ACA taxes like the tax on medical devices and potentially tanning salons, Medicare tax and investment taxes. This 3rd option, could then set up a potential conference committee with the House and their terrible bill.

There is also still a real possibility that the Senate will be unable to secure 50 votes on any actual final bill. To say the situation is fluid is an understatement and more twists and turns are ahead.

[View this letter](#) that NEA Government Relations sent to Congress late last week and again yesterday ahead of the vote to proceed. At this time, we must act as though Senator McConnell will stitch together 50 votes for a final bill that largely dismantles the Affordable Care Act or keeps that possibility alive via a conference committee with the House. We must keep up the fight to prevent that.

Please continue to direct your members to visit www.nea.org/stoptrumpcare and call the Senate using our toll free number (855-764-1010) and urging a vote

against the GOP leadership's health care bill.

Thank you all for what you have done on this issue so far. Our KY Senators and Representatives may not be responsive but we have to keep trying for our students and the families we serve.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

KEA President
401 Capital Ave
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-231-4532
www.kea.org