

[Did Republicans Hitch Their Wagon To Political Loser With Anti-ACA Stance? | MIRS](#)

Republicans, in general, appear to have quit talking about repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or "Obamacare" both nationally and at the state level because it's a political loser with an American public that still list health care as being among their top issue, Attorney General Dana NESSEL said today.

Nessel said she doesn't know, for sure, why Republican policymakers have toned down their rhetoric over the last couple years in their desire to overturn former President Barack OBAMA's signature legislative accomplishment. However, she said she believes Michigan and the 19 other states suing to protect the ACA in federal court have a strong case and she's thankful other advocacy groups are supporting their efforts.

Today, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association joined economists, patient groups, hospitals and insurance companies in filing an amicus brief to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to review a recent U.S. Fifth Circuit decision. It held the individual mandate of the ACA was unconstitutional and called into question whether the remaining provisions of the law could still stand.

"We have a very strong case, and it's very important that Michigan be part of the network and the team of agencies that are out there, vigorously defending this law," Nessel said. "I'm very hopeful that we will be successful at the Supreme Court."

Nessel joined Michigan League for Public Policy President Gilda JACOBS, former national AARP President Eric SCHNEIDEWIND and patient advocate Erich DITSCHMAN at a roundtable put together by Protect Our Care Michigan and state Director Dianne BYRUM.

The speakers denounced the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in *Texas v. United States* and urged the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene to protect the more than 12 million Americans who are receiving health coverage through Medicaid expansion and the nearly 9 million individuals receiving tax credits to help afford health insurance coverage through individual marketplaces.

MIRS asked Byrum, a former state House Democratic Leader, her opinion on why Republicans gave up talking about repealing "Obamacare" after Congress and the U.S. Senate failed to pass legislation repealing the law in 2017.

"I think they lost seats on that issue," said Byrum, referencing the 2018 election in which the GOP lost control of the House. "I think this is an issue that resonates with the American people. As we said in our conversation today, this is America's health care. This Affordable Care Act affects every single American, and so when you start unraveling that, what's the replacement?"

Instead, the GOP has allowed the courts to be the vehicle to dismantle the law. Byrum fears that Republicans are trying to use the courts to stall the case until the election cycle is over. Byrum said she wants the U.S. Supreme Court to act quickly so the public will know where things stand by Election Day 2020.

"We want the issue front and center in this campaign cycle and let the American public express their opinion," she said.

Other groups signing up in support of the ACA include America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), National Hospital Associations, Small Business Majority Foundation and the American Cancer Society.