

# PROTECT OUR CARE

## **HYPOCRISY ALERT: The 10 Senators Demanding A Woefully Inadequate COVID Bill and Clamoring for So-Called Unity Were Big Fans of Using Reconciliation to Pass Republican Policy Priorities**

### **SHELLY MOORE CAPITO TOUTED HER VOTE TO REPEAL THE ACA THROUGH RECONCILIATION IN 2015**

**Shelley Moore Capito Touted Her Vote On A 2015 Attempt To Repeal The Affordable Care Act Through Reconciliation: “I Am Glad That A Repeal Bill Will Finally Reach The President’s Desk”** “U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) today voted for the Restoring Americans’ Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, a bill that repeals Obamacare and begins the process of creating an improved health care system for hardworking American families. This is the first Obamacare repeal bill that will reach the president’s desk. ‘Americans deserve a health care system that works for them and Obamacare is not it. I have consistently voted to repeal and replace this disastrous health care law, and I am glad that a repeal bill will finally reach the president’s desk. This legislation will enable us to revisit the problems caused by Obamacare and replace them with reforms that provide quality, affordable care for all Americans. In addition to lifting the heavy burden of Obamacare, this bill also repeals more than \$1 trillion in onerous taxes and includes significant resources for mental health and substance abuse services – funding that is vital to West Virginia. I also fought to include a two year transition period for Medicaid expansion in the bill, which will allow us time to enact alternative reforms without disrupting coverage. The failures of this law have been absolutely devastating. It is time to begin healing the wounds of Obamacare and pursuing a health care system that works.’” [Shelley Moore Capito Press Release, [12/3/15](#)]

### **BILL CASSIDY SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA**

**2017: Bill Cassidy Argued That The Reconciliation Process For The 2017 GOP Health Care Bill Was Not Partisan.** “**Bill Cassidy:** We had a very short period of time to bring it to date, before the September 30th deadline ran out. There’s a couple of senators who wished to have committee hearings. Well, still, we will have those now. That will be the process, but we can’t use this reconciliation bill of 2018 because that is dedicated to tax. If we’re able to do it, it would be using a 2019 reconciliation bill, which would be next year. At that time, hopefully, a chance to go through the process allaying the concerns of at least a couple folks who are concerned about the process. **Chuck Todd:** Senator, why go down this reconciliation process? I mean, it seems like it’s politically perilous and that it will never be accepted law of the land by both parties. **Cassidy:** I will say that the Graham-Cassidy bill is far better for states like Virginia, Missouri, Maine, Florida -- I could go down a few others -- represented by Democratic senators. So it’s not a partisan, in that sense, bill.” [“MTP Daily,” MSNBC, 10/18/17]

### **SUSAN COLLINS SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO PASS A \$2 TRILLION TAX BILL BENEFITING THE WEALTHIEST AMERICANS**

**2017: Senator Collins Was The Deciding Vote For Trump’s Tax Law Passed Via Reconciliation.** “The Senate passed the Republicans’ sweeping tax overhaul with several holdouts throwing their support behind the bill. Senator Susan Collins of Maine, who was the last big holdout, said she would support the bill after changes she wanted were made to the legislation.” [New York Times, [12/1/17](#)]

- **2019: Collins Said She Was “Proud Of Having Cast The Vote” For The Tax Bill.** “They are throwing everything possible at me. Another thing too that the Democrats are hitting me hard on is the tax bill. Look at our economy, we had the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years,” she said to lighter applause. She added, “It has made a real difference for our small businesses, for our hard-working families, for single moms who needed help with their child tax expenses. Again, I’m proud of having cast the vote to give tax relief to hard-working Mainers.” [Maine Beacon, [7/9/19](#)]

**2017: Collins Supported Repealing Some Of The ACA Through Reconciliation.** “Though Collins has said she doesn’t want to repeal Obamacare until a replacement is available, she said Monday that having one ‘ready’ is closer to the right word. She said Congress ‘simply can’t do all the legislative changes’ required to have a successor law in place before approval of the repeal. Some of the necessary changes could be included within budget reconciliation language, Collins said, but a full bill would have to follow to flesh out the program. She said it could done ‘at nearly the same time.’” [Sun Journal, [1/23/17](#)]

## **JERRY MORAN VOTED TO REPEAL THE ACA USING RECONCILIATION**

**2015: Jerry Moran Touted His Vote On AN Attempt To Repeal The Affordable Care Act Through Reconciliation.** “U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) released the following statement after the Senate passed the Restoring Americans’ Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act (H.R.3762) to repeal Obamacare: ‘It has been more than five years since Obamacare was rammed through Congress on a purely partisan basis in the face of significant public opposition. After all this time, most Americans still oppose this unprecedented expansion of federal government intrusion into health care decisions for families and job creators. This 2,700 page law has burdened millions of Americans with a litany of broken promises, higher taxes and costs, reduced health care choices, and new regulations that have stifled the economy. Individuals, families and employers continue to face increasing health insurance costs, new taxes overseen by a politically-biased IRS, burdensome mandates, and great uncertainty because of this flawed law. By repealing Obamacare, we can replace it with step-by-step improvements to enable individuals to purchase affordable health coverage that meets their unique needs and lower overall costs.’” [Jerry Moran Press Release, [12/3/15](#)]

**2017: Moran Cast A Key Vote To Repeal The ACA Using Reconciliation.** “U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran cast a key vote Tuesday to push the nation closer to a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Moran, a Kansas Republican, stalled a version of the legislation last week, but on Tuesday he joined a majority of GOP senators in voting to proceed with the health care debate even as the ultimate Senate plan remains unclear. The bill’s contents are still to be determined, but each version Congress has considered would rapidly increase the rate of the uninsured. Two of Moran’s Republican colleagues, Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, opposed the motion. Republicans required Vice President Mike Pence to cast the 51st vote to achieve a majority. A third Republican dissenter would have halted the process, making Moran a decisive vote.” [Kansas City Star, [7/25/17](#)]

## **LISA MURKOWSKI SAID RECONCILIATION WAS A PART OF “REGULAR ORDER”**

**2017: Lisa Murkowski: The 2017 GOP Tax Reconciliation Bill Was “The Result Of Regular Order Process.”** “Murkowski: I appreciate the fact that I’m able to follow my colleague from South Carolina who has described and encapsulated in pretty simple terms what this proposal is before us, this tax proposal is, is good for the country. It’s good for American families. It’s good for Alaskan families and South Carolina, and I’m pleased to be able to join my colleagues this afternoon in support of the reconciliation legislation that we have pending before us. I happen to believe that the tax reform title will help our families keep more of their hard earned dollars. I think it will make American businesses more competitive. ... I think it’s important to recognize this is not something that just appeared. Our title is the result of a regular order process here in the Senate, and it will include a regular order environmental process, with laws like NEPA all fully applied, after we pass it.” [Lisa Murkowski Floor Speech, [11/30/17](#)]

## **ROB PORTMAN THOUGHT RECONCILIATION WAS “GREAT” WHEN REPUBLICANS USED IT**

**2014: Portman Said Reconciliation Was “Great” And Advocated For Passing Multiple GOP Priorities That Way.** “I asked Portman whether he would recommend using reconciliation, which avoids the 60-vote threshold, to achieve policy

goals the way the Democrats rammed through Obamacare. 'Reconciliation would be great,' he says brightly. 'We could do one for spending, one for revenue and one for the debt limit. We ought to do that.'" [Jennifer Rubin Column, Washington Post, [9/19/14](#)]

**2014: Portman Supported Using Reconciliation To "Overhaul The Tax Code, Make Changes In Entitlement Programs And Raise The Debt Limit."** "Republicans are beginning to focus on what they could accomplish through budget reconciliation next year if the GOP takes control of the Senate. The GOP could use the filibuster-proof reconciliation process to pass budget-related measures, including an overhaul of entitlement programs, changes to the tax code and even raising the debt limit, assuming Republicans in the two chambers could put aside their differences and agree on a fiscal 2016 budget resolution. [...] Ohio Republican Rob Portman, a member of the Senate Budget Committee, would like to see reconciliation instructions to overhaul the tax code, make changes in entitlement programs and raise the debt limit, which is currently suspended until March 15. 'We are going to have to deal with the debt limit again,' Portman said. 'Most people think that has to be dealt with again next year. So I just want to be sure that we have a plan to get some reforms in place.'" [CQ, 9/18/14]

**2015: Portman Supported Using Budget Reconciliation As A Vehicle For Getting Substantive Issues Passed.** "Reconciliation bill may take aim at Obamacare. Republicans are discussing using the bill to gut the Affordable Care Act as well. The provision is already in the proposed bill's language. [...] Asked about supporting it if the House approves it and sends it to the Senate, Portman said he'll 'have to see what's in it.' But he added that he supports budget reconciliation as a vehicle for getting substantive issues passed. 'I would frankly like it used for some other purposes, too, like tax reform, because I think that there are things that we really can and should be getting done right now to help give the economy a shot in the arm,' Portman said. 'But I have supported the defunding of Planned Parenthood and shifting the funding to community health centers. In the past, I have voted that way, and I believe that would be a better use of those funds for Ohio.'" [Cleveland Plain Dealer, 10/11/15]

**2016: Portman Supported Using Reconciliation To Pass Tax Reform And Entitlement Program Changes.** "If Republicans in both chambers can agree on legislative changes they would try to make through reconciliation that would resonate with the public and be acceptable to both conservatives and moderates, that could make it easier to win over enough Republicans to the fiscal plan. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Ron Johnson, R-Wis., both want to include reconciliation instructions in the budget resolution. 'I'd like to see reconciliation,' Portman said. 'To me, that's the best reason to consider doing a budget. Because of reconciliation, you can actually get at tax reform and smart reforms on the mandatory spending side.'" [CQ, 1/28/16]

**2016: Portman Supported Using Reconciliation To Pass Tax Reform.** "[Portman](#): Reconciliation is a way to do it. You're right. It's kind of a fancy word for being able to do it with 50 votes instead of 60. But it also is limited to a 10-year period. And we saw this with the Bush tax cuts that we had to after 10 years go through a painful process of trying to renew some of them. What you want to do is put permanent changes into law and particularly on the international side I think it's important for us to provide some predictability and certainty. Let's see what we can do. And if it's impossible to do it under regular order, then there is another option under the budget reconciliation." ["Squawk Box," CNBC, 11/17/16]

**2017: Portman Said Reconciliation Would Be "Necessary" To Pass GOP Tax Reform.** "[Portman](#): The reality is that the code is inefficient. It's antiquated. It's a great opportunity. Timing will depend on a couple things. One, I think having a budget done, which usually happens in the April/May time frame. You have a process - you talked about before on the show - called reconciliation, where with fewer than 60 votes you can get it done with a majority vote. I think that'll probably be necessary, honestly, to get the kind of tax reform done that we're looking at: pro-growth, pro-jobs tax reform." ["Squawk Box," CNBC, 2/8/17]

**2017: Portman Endorsed The Use Of Budget Reconciliation To Pass Health Care And Tax Legislation.** "Tax reform and health care reform are being done, as you know, under this 50 vote scenario so it's not subject to the filibuster. In fact, I would agree with him on those, because those are being done under what's called budget reconciliation, which you can do. It's a special thing under the '74 Budget Act. It has to relate to the budget outlays or revenue and so on, so there are some restrictions to it, but that's how we're doing those." [Rob Portman, Hoover Institution Interview, [6/10/17](#)]

## **MITT ROMNEY WANTED TO REPEAL THE ACA USING RECONCILIATION**

**2011: Mitt Romney Said He Would Repeal The ACA Using Reconciliation On “Day Two” Of His Presidential Administration.** Mitt Romney: On day one, granting a waiver for -- to all 50 states doesn't stop in its tracks entirely 'Obamacare.' That's why I also say we have to repeal 'Obamacare,' and I will do that on day two with a reconciliation bill, because, as you know, it was passed by reconciliation, 51 votes. We can get rid of it with 51 votes.” [Republican Presidential Debate, Hanover, NH, 10/11/11]

## **MIKE ROUNDS SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA**

**2015: Rounds Supported Using Reconciliation To Repeal The ACA.** “Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) joined fellow freshmen members of the Senate in a press conference today to address the future of health care on the five-year anniversary of Obamacare. ‘We're not going to stop until we fix a lot of the problems that we find within the health care industry,’ said Rounds at the conference. ‘What we can do to start is pass a budget resolution that provides tools for us in which to impact the implementation of health care. And it provides us something else: twelve opportunities in twelve separate appropriation bills in which we can impact how money at the federal level is being spent.’ A budget resolution for fiscal year 2016 is currently being considered on the Senate floor. The budget resolution will provide the procedural tools - via budget reconciliation- to repeal Obamacare.” [Sen. Mike Rounds Press Release, [3/23/15](#)]

**2017: Rounds Supported Repealing The ACA With Only 51 Votes.** Rounds: I don't know that we've tried to set a timeline. I think what will happen is whenever we get to 51 votes, I think that's when they'll start moving activity forward. And we're not there yet. At least I don't think we are. I think we've got a lot of things to discuss. A lot of members of the senate, they recognize how serious this is. It impacts every American. And so we want to do this right. We want to have read the bill before we put it into law as some people think it should have been done in the first phase of ObamaCare. And this particular one, we've got to bring everybody up to speed in terms of just exactly what it does to Medicaid. Transitioning out of Medicaid into regular health insurance. Promotion of the group market. Trying to make -- there's a fair playing field for companies to compete once again and making sure that there's a parity between states that actually took advantage of the ObamaCare and strengthening of the guidelines for Medicaid involvement versus those that did not participate.” [“Mornings with Maria,” Fox Business, 5/11/17]

**2017: Rounds On Repealing The ACA: “We’re Just Trying To Get To 50 Votes.”** “Sen. Mike Rounds, who has questioned the repeal bill's investment-tax cut, said that while the Senate bill is better than the current Obamacare system, some changes could be made to make it palatable to more senators. ‘We’re just trying to get to 50 votes, and when you try to get to 50 votes you try to do what you can to handle the other folks concerns about the changes that are there,’ Rounds said.” [National Journal, 6/29/17]

**2017: Rounds Said That Democrats Could Still Vote For A Reconciliation Package To Repeal The ACA.** Chuck Todd: “Senator, you haven't opened the door. Reconciliation -- when you made the decision to do a reconciliation, you made this -- that's shutting the door. That wasn't an invitation to work with you. Mike Rounds: Well, not necessarily. What it is it says we're going to get it done. A lot of what Obamacare did was through reconciliation as well. But that doesn't mean that we can't - and, once again, you can pass reconciliation with 75 votes but you only need 51. So, if there was an interest in putting something together, I think that would still be available. I think it would still be on the table. We'd love to see it. But we have to be practical as well. They'd like to - they'd like to see us try and do it. And then, they think if we're not successful, they've won politically. But, second of all, then they could step in. In the meantime, if we are able to do this, I think there's an opportunity down the line to make some other changes that they would feel very favorable about as well.” [“MTP Daily,” MSNBC, 6/28/17]

**2017: Rounds Complained That Democrats Were Trying To Force A 60 Vote Threshold For Repealing The ACA.** Rounds: The idea behind it is that it's what they call a privileged plan. When we do reconciliation, we're taking the House budget, the Senate budget and putting it together. And we do it with 51 votes. But since it's 51 votes, it means that every single proposal has to be scored to see what it does to the budget. We have to go to the CBO to get that done. If the CBO hasn't got the amendment scored, then you have to have 60 votes to put the amendment on this bill. And it makes the bill, then, a 60 vote. So, Dems, on one side, are going to do everything they can to create this process in which it becomes 60

votes to get passed which means it dies or Republicans are doing everything to try to get their bill scored and proposed.”  
[“MTP Daily,” MSNBC, 7/26/17]

**2018: Rounds Called For Passing More Tax Cuts Via Reconciliation.** “Mike Rounds: Well, I like all the ideas that they’ve suggested so far. And in particular, to be able to make the individual tax cuts permanent -- that would provide sole proprietorships, LLCs, the LLPs and so forth -- those organizations with some stability long-term. A sense that they know that those tax rates will be there for an extended period of time -- that lends once again stability to the marketplace. I’d be very interested in doing some additional stuff there. On the other side of it, Chairman Crapo in Banking is also looking at some new packages as well, trying to do some additional financial services reform that could also add to growth in our economy which is a positive thing, create new jobs, create more demands for workers, bring those wages up -- that’s a good thing. Maria Bartoromo: Well, I guess, what I’m trying to understand is -- I mean Kevin Brady told us earlier this week that he would like to get a vote on the floor by September. But there’s some questions about whether or not this would even fly in the senate. Do you think the votes would be there to actually move this forward? Rounds: We would have to be able to do it under 51-vote margin. I don’t think our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to move anything through in a positive nature for taxes until after the November election. Bartoromo: Yes -- that makes sense. Rounds: Some of those folks might take a look at it then. But I’m not optimistic. I think you’ll have to do it under a reconciliation scenario -- one that we could do with 51 votes. And you only get one vote a year like that.” [“Mornings With Maria,” Fox Business, 7/19/18]

## **THOM TILLIS SAID REPUBLICANS NEEDED TO USE RECONCILIATION TO PASS TAX CUTS “FOR THE NATION”**

**2017: Thom Tillis: “I Will Continue To Support A Measure That Would Go To Reconciliation, The 51-Vote Threshold.”** “Tillis: I’m willing to look at anything that may soften the blow as we continue to convince our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and some in my own conference that we have got to fix this problem. I will continue to support a measure that would go to reconciliation, the 51-vote threshold. I’m willing to look at what the Democrats maybe are willing to offer.” [“Fox News Sunday,” Fox News, 8/6/17]

**2017: Thom Tillis: In Order To Pass The GOP Tax Bill, “We Have Got To Pass A Budget So That We Have That Reconciliation Vehicle. ... We Have To Do It For The Nation.”** “Chris Wallace: What are the chances for tax reform this year, and remember, if you don’t pass a budget you don’t get the reconciliation process where you can pass tax reform with just 51 votes. Thom Tillis: We have got to pass a budget so that we have that reconciliation vehicle. We did tax reform in North Carolina. It’s had extraordinary results. We have to do it for the nation. It’s a promise we made and it’s a promise we need to keep.” [“Fox News Sunday,” Fox News, 8/6/17]

## **TODD YOUNG SUPPORTED REPEALING THE ACA USING RECONCILIATION**

**2017: Todd Young On Using Reconciliation To Repeal The Affordable Care Act: “Nearly Everyone Agrees That Doing Nothing Is Not An Option.”** “Senator Todd Young issued a statement following the passage of a motion to proceed to the repeal and replace budget reconciliation: ‘Nearly everyone agrees that doing nothing is not an option. Insurers have fled the individual market and premiums continue to rise without any indication the law’s death spiral will stop. Ultimately, it is imperative that we fundamentally reform our healthcare system and my vote to proceed to debate allows us to begin that process. I will continue to work with my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to come up with a solution that provides long-term stability to our healthcare system and gives each and every Hoosier the opportunity to access quality and affordable insurance.’” [Todd Young Press Release, [7/25/17](#)]

