



NEW REPORT
**A HISTORY OF REPUBLICAN
RECONCILIATION HYPOCRISY**

2001-2021

PROTECT
OUR CARE

CORONAVIRUS
WAR ROOM

February 2021

REPUBLICAN RECONCILIATION HYPOCRISY

Republicans who are against using budget reconciliation to prevent a GOP filibuster and pass vital COVID relief had no problem supporting the process when it came to much more partisan measures like slashing taxes for the rich or attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The hypocrisy of these Republican senators is on full display as they attempt to lowball President Biden's American Rescue Plan proposals, which are [overwhelmingly popular](#) and will help pull us out of the pandemic. Yet, these Republican senators had no qualms previously voting for, and in some cases, enthusiastically supporting reconciliation to move forward their own agenda.

JOHN BARRASSO SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA AND DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

2015: Barasso Supported Using Reconciliation To Repeal The ACA And Enact Other Republican Priorities. “

The rules of reconciliation allow it to be used on a bill that covers a wide variety of subjects, as long as they fall into the jurisdiction of certain committees. The rules do not require the bill to do only one thing, although GOP leadership is very clear that repealing Obamacare is its primary objective. (The tool allows a bill to pass through the Senate with only 51 votes instead of the 60 needed to break a filibuster.) ‘We will focus specifically on Obamacare, but other areas may be included,’ said Sen. John Barrasso, who has become the party's lead spokesperson on health care.” [The Atlantic, [7/28/15](#)]

2017: John Barrasso: “There Are Certain Things You Can Do With Reconciliation” In Order To Defund Planned Parenthood Without Having To Get Support From Susan Collins Or Lisa Murkowski.

“[Wolf Blitzer](#): If you lose Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins, and one more, because of Planned Parenthood funding, it's over as far as the Republicans are concerned. [John Barrasso](#): What we know is that Obamacare has failed. People all around the country are scrambling for insurance. It's gotten too far out of cost – [Blitzer](#): Those - those senators say they're not going to vote for it if it eliminates funding for Planned Parenthood. [Barrasso](#): There's a lot of - a lot of discussion between the release tomorrow and the vote in about a week. There's an open amendment process on the floor of the Senate. People will – [Blitzer](#): “So you think it might be possible you'll include funding for Planned Parenthood in – [Barrasso](#): “That's not my desire at all. [Blitzer](#): Order to win the support of those - those women senators? [Barrasso](#): My desire is to not have that funding in there. There are certain things you can do with reconciliation.” [“Wolf,” CNN, 6/21/17]

ROY BLUNT SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

2017: Roy Blunt After The House Passed Its 2017 ACA Repeal: We'll “Look At What The House Has Done And See How Much Of That We Can Incorporate In A Product That Works For Us In Reconciliation”

“According to the Washington Examiner, the Senate may skip considering the House bill altogether and is instead write their own bill from scratch. ‘We are going to draft a Senate bill,’ Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, told the Examiner. ‘That is what I've been told.’ ‘The safest thing to say is there will be a Senate bill, but it will look at what the House has done and see how much of that we can incorporate in a product that works for us in reconciliation,’ said Republican Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, who is heading up the 12-member working group crafting the legislation.” [U.S. News & World Report, [5/4/17](#)]

RICHARD BURR SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA

2015: Burr Supported Using Reconciliation To Repeal The ACA And Enact Other Republican Priorities. “That's one of the things reconciliation will be used for,’ said Sen. Richard Burr in an interview, referring to an Obamacare-repeal vote. ‘I think it's likely there'll be more than one.’” [The Atlantic, [7/28/15](#)]

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 GOP 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, [7/9/2019](#)]

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](#)]

JOHN CORNYN SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA AND ENACT OTHER REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

2015: John Cornyn Supported Using Reconciliation To Repeal The ACA And “Anything Else We Can Shoo In There.” “After weeks of hemming and hawing on how they’re going to use reconciliation, Senate Republicans finally committed on Tuesday to using the budgetary tool to fully repeal Obamacare. But it’s what Majority Leader Mitch McConnell did not say in a statement released in conjunction with Sen. Mike Lee that leaves room for things to get interesting: He did not say reconciliation would only be used for a repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Majority Whip John Cornyn was more direct about what reconciliation will be used for: ‘Obamacare and anything else we can shoo on in there.’” [The Atlantic, [7/28/15](#)]

TED CRUZ WANTED TO PASS ALL GOP HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES IN ONE RECONCILIATION “BUCKET”

2014: Cruz Wanted To Use Reconciliation “To Pass Complete And Total Repeal” Of The ACA. “But Cruz is the most vocal member of a small group that believes any serious repeal attempt must use every possible legislative tool to put a bill on Obama’s desk -- not just the 60-vote strategy that they know will fail. Cruz, the architect of last year’s government shutdown over Obamacare, told Fox News on election night that ‘I think we should start by using [budget] reconciliation to pass complete and total repeal.’” [Politico, [11/11/14](#)]

2017: Cruz: “We Should Use Whatever Procedural Vehicle Is Necessary” To Repeal The ACA “Republicans have grown accustomed to the health-care slog, and if anything, they were energized by how close they came to succeeding on a bill that few had seriously considered until a week ago. Where lawmakers once saw September 30 as a firm deadline, they now have begun to consider the possibility of using health care for one of the two remaining opportunities for reconciliation they’ll have before the 2018 congressional elections. ‘We need to keep working until we get it done,’ Cruz told reporters. ‘I think we should use whatever procedural vehicle is necessary, and we should pass it the instant we have the votes to pass it.’” [The Atlantic, [9/27/17](#)]

2017: Ted Cruz: “I Believe The Only Meaningful Health Care Reform Will Be Through Reconciliation” “Cruz said he has been working for weeks with the now-thirteen member group of GOP senators on an Obamacare repeal and replacement plan that would eliminate the need for a second phase of legislation to replace failing healthcare law. Instead of a limited repeal and replace bill followed by another bill later, the GOP wish-list for replacing Obamacare would be packed into a single budget resolution to repeal Obamacare that could pass with only GOP support using a tool called reconciliation. ‘I believe the only meaningful healthcare reform will be through reconciliation,’ Cruz told the Washington Examiner in an interview. Republicans have described a three-part plan to repeal and replace Obamacare, beginning with limited repeal and replace language passing under reconciliation. The second phase would include the bulk of the GOP’s proposal to replace Obamacare, while the third phase would reform healthcare through changes carried out administratively by the Trump administration. But Cruz worries the second phase might never make it into law because the legislation would require hard-to-get by necessary Democratic support in the Senate. ‘Senate Democrats are listening to their radical left wing base of their party and so no health care reform legislation will garner 60 votes because there are not eight senators who will vote for any of the legislation,’ Cruz said. ‘I think the answer, very simply, is to put it all in one bucket,’ Cruz added. In other words, pass everything under reconciliation, which requires only 51 votes instead of the typical 60. Cruz believes the provisions can be included in the reconciliation measure without running afoul of the Senate rules. ‘Every one of the reforms reduces premiums and has a significant budgetary impact and therefore, under the terms of the statute, those reforms are permissible under reconciliation,’ Cruz said.” [Washington Examiner, [5/9/17](#)]

2018: Cruz Wanted To Ram Through A Last Minute Repeal Of The ACA Using Reconciliation. “Shortly after winning reelection this month, Ted Cruz implored his Republican colleagues at a private lunch to use the GOP’s last days of unified control in Washington to ram through a boatload of conservative priorities. The Texas senator urged Republicans to use budget reconciliation before Democrats take the House in January and that they do things like overhaul Obamacare, fund the border wall and chip away at regulations, according to attendees. Cruz argued this would be the GOP’s final chance to deploy the powerful party-line voting maneuver, which Republicans used to cut taxes last year while avoiding a Democratic filibuster.” [Politico, [11/28/18](#)]

MIKE ENZI OPPOSED LETTING DEMOCRATS USE RECONCILIATION TO PASS HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION, SUPPORTED IT WHEN REPUBLICANS DID IT

2009: Enzi Said Democrats Using Reconciliation To Pass A Health Care Law Would Be A “Declaration Of War.”

“Senate Democrats did not include reconciliation in their version of the budget. The matter is guaranteed to be a major partisan sticking point when the two chambers meet to hammer out a final version of next year's spending plan. If it passes, it would allow the Senate to pass Obama's proposed health care reform without the threat of a Republican-led Senate filibuster. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyoming, speaking for most of his GOP Senate colleagues, warned Tuesday that if a health-care ‘reconciliation winds up in the budget bill, it'll be like a declaration of war. ... I hope that that wedge doesn't get thrown in there.” [CNN, [4/3/09](#)]

2017: Enzi Introduced Reconciliation Language To Repeal The ACA. “Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi on Tuesday introduced a budget resolution that is the first step in a procedural slog toward the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. The resolution includes instructions to committees with health jurisdiction to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but does not offer details for a replacement plan. GOP leaders say that will come after the 2010 law is repealed.” [Morning Consult, [1/3/17](#)]

CHUCK GRASSLEY SAID RECONCILIATION WAS A WAY FOR A REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT TO PASS HIS AGENDA

2001: Grassley Contended That President Bush's Agenda Was “Tied In” To The Power-Sharing Agreement For The 50/50 Senate, And Said “Reconciliation Affords The President The Opportunity To Consider His Program.”

“Grassley: As always, Senator Byrd said it very well. At this point in history, the President's agenda, including the cornerstone of his proposed tax relief for working men and women, is tied in with his power-sharing agreement. With this power-sharing agreement that govern the operation of this Senate, this year, certainly from the perspective of those on this side of the Aisle, there is a connection. Therefore, it strikes us as particularly unfortunate that in the context of power sharing a new obstacle is raised to the use of the reconciliation process. It is particularly disappointing to this side of the aisle that this argument on reconciliation is forthcoming now. We believe the Domenici amendment should not be necessary. Reconciliation affords the President an opportunity to consider his program. It is an appropriate opportunity in the context of the history of the budget Act. It is also appropriate, and maybe more so, in the context of the power-sharing agreement governing the operation of the Senate, in this Congress, because the Senate is 50/50. A vote for the Domenici amendment is not a vote for a tax cut; it is a vote to give the Senate the opportunity we ought to have to consider such tax relief for working men and women.” [Debate on Domenci Amendment No. 345 (to Amendment No. 170), Congressional Record – Senate: Vol 146, No. 49, [4/5/01](#)]

- **Grassley On Reconciliation In 2001: “It Is Also Appropriate, And Maybe More So, In The Context Of The Power-Sharing Agreement Governing The Operation Of The Senate, In This Congress, Because The Senate Is 50/50.”** [Debate on Domenci Amendment No. 345 (to Amendment No. 170), Congressional Record – Senate: Vol 146, No. 49, [4/5/01](#)]

2001: During Debate On Reconciliation For The Bush Tax Cuts, Grassley Said It “Boils Down To The Question Of Cooperation And Shared Responsibility.”

“Grassley: There have been strong statements made by some on the other side about tax cuts and reconciliation. From the tone of the statements, one would think that a reconciled tax cut is a new event. We have gone through the history of it, and I do not want to repeat that history. It has been discussed between the Senator from New Hampshire and the Senator from New Mexico to a great extent, but I think it boils down to the question of cooperation and shared responsibility. A 50/50 Senate means shared power and, just as important, shared responsibility. The Senate today is operating under a historic power sharing arrangement reached on January 5, 2001. Republicans following our leader yielded a significant concession to the Democrats. What did we get in exchange? What we got was, as Senator Lott put it, a good-faith promise on the part of Democrats to cooperate. In the Senate Finance Committee, I have had this sort of cooperation from Senator Baucus, and we will continue to do it. However, the opponents of Senator Domenici's amendment depart from the spirit of that historic agreement. In 1993, with a new President and majorities in both Houses, Democrats used reconciliation to raise taxes. Democrats in 1993 used reconciliation within their right to further their President's program, a partisan-designed major tax increase. Eight years

later, we are faced with a similar situation, though I am hopeful more than one Member of the other side will support us. Republicans, by a razor-thin edge, have control of Congress and the Presidency. The core of President Bush's program, much as President Clinton's program 8 years ago, involves taxes. The difference is that President Bush wants to return a portion of the record level of income taxes to folks who pay them. Republicans did not object to use of reconciliation in 1993; Democrats should not object to Republicans' use of reconciliation today. For those of us on this side of the aisle, this is a very compelling point, especially in the context of our concession in powersharing." [Debate on Domenci Amendment No. 345 (to Amendment No. 170), Congressional Record – Senate: Vol 146, No. 49, 4/5/01]

RON JOHNSON APPLAUDED REPUBLICANS FOR TRYING TO REPEAL THE ACA VIA RECONCILIATION “BY OURSELVES”

2017: Ron Johnson: When Democrats Rejected Our ACA Repeal Ideas, “We Decided To Do This Through Reconciliation By Ourselves.” “Mika Brzezinski: So first of all, I think a lot of reasonable Democrats would agree that Obamacare needs to have revisions, have improvements for sure. But the reality now, with this process, what is possible?” Ron Johnson: “Well, we're probably going to have to go through this process first. And again, I didn't agree that we should automatically do this through reconciliation. I think we should have reached out to our Democratic colleagues and just pointed out the reality. And say, listen, this is broken. Look at what President Clinton said, it's a crazy system. Let's fix it for the American public. That was not the decision that was made. So we decided to do this through reconciliation by ourselves. And so here we are. We're probably going to have to go through this process.” [“Morning Joe,” MSNBC, 6/22/17]

MIKE LEE SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA

2015: Mike Lee Was “Committed To Using Reconciliation To Repeal Obamacare.” “In statements issued Tuesday, McConnell and Lee underlined their agreement about repealing ObamaCare through budget reconciliation. ‘The Majority Leader and I are committed to using reconciliation to repeal ObamaCare in the 114th Congress,’ Lee wrote in his statement.” [The Hill, 7/29/15]

MITCH MCCONNELL CALLED RECONCILIATION “REGULAR ORDER” WHEN IT WAS USED TO PASS TRUMP’S PRIORITIES

2014: McConnell: “There Are Some Things We Can Do With 51 Votes.” “McConnell has said that he wants to use the Senate appropriations process to starve funding to the law. When asked about his strategy on Wednesday, he said Republicans would be ‘addressing that issue in a variety of different ways’ and hinted at using reconciliation by saying that ‘there are some things we can do with 51 votes.’” [Politico, 11/5/14]

2017: Mitch McConnell: “We Will Need To Use Reconciliation” If Democrats Were “Not Interested In Addressing” Republican Priorities. “In explaining his decision to reporters, the Kentucky Republican cited a Tuesday letter from 45 Democratic senators urging Republicans not to use reconciliation and vowing to oppose a tax plan that adds to the deficit or cuts the annual bill of the richest 1 percent of taxpayers. “We will need to use reconciliation” for taxes in the wake of Democrats’ statement that they are “not interested in addressing” Republican priorities, McConnell said.” [Politico, 8/1/17]

- **Mitch McConnell: Even If Republicans Used Reconciliation, “Nothing Prevents Any Democrat From Supporting It.”** “McConnell: There were several Democratic senators that did not sign the letter who may be open to pro- growth tax reform. There is nothing that prevents, even though you do the reconciliation process, nothing prevents any Democrat from supporting it, who chooses to. So I don't want to give up on the prospect of having some, but the goal would be to finish that sometime this year.” [Senate GOP Press Conference on Agenda, 8/1/17]

2017: Mitch McConnell: “The Reconciliation Process Is Regular Order” “McConnell: We followed the regular order. There were multiple hearings. The Democrats were there, days of hearings, days of amendments. The Democrats offered amendments in committee ad nauseam. The process on the floor, the reconciliation process, is regular order.” [“Face The Nation,” CBS, 12/3/17]

JERRY MORAN CAST A DECISIVE VOTE 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

2014: Rounds Supported Using The Budget Process To Repeal The ACA. "Heritage Action's Dan Holler said the use of reconciliation 'signals a seriousness' that the GOP would wipe the law off the books if they win the White House in

2016. At least one of the new GOP senators, Mike Rounds of South Dakota, is on board with that plan, at least in a rhetorical way. Rob Skjonsberg, who managed his campaign and is now the director of his transition team, says Rounds wants to 'repeal and replace as much of Obamacare as possible through the budget process.'" [Politico, [11/11/14](#)]

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 Said Republicans Did Not Need Democratic Votes To Repeal The ACA. "Republicans, for their part, are prepared for Democrats to turn up the pressure over Obamacare as they try to hash out a repeal plan that can net 50 GOP votes under budget reconciliation procedures. 'It would be great if we could find a way to bring Dems into the discussion. But the reality is they're enjoying watching us struggle with this like they did with Obamacare for seven years,' said Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.). 'They want us to feel the political heat.'" [Politico, 5/19/17]

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 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]

2017: Rounds Said That Regular Order Would Take Too Long For Repealing The ACA. “Senate Republicans’ health-care reform push relied on a process known as budget reconciliation, whereby a simple majority is needed for passage. Each iteration of their plan to repeal and replace Obamacare was written in a closed-door setting, and moderates and conservatives felt snubbed at different parts of the process. Earlier this week, McCain delivered an impassioned plea on the Senate floor to return to regular order. Rounds, the South Dakota Republican, raised serious doubts that regular order could help deliver a solution. ‘Well, we’re running out of time now. And that’s the problem—now we have to use regular order. Regular order takes a lot of time, and it’s more challenging. And I’m not sure we’re going to be able to fix this thing,’ Rounds told The Daily Beast.” [Daily Beast, 7/28/17]

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]

MARCO RUBIO SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA

2014: Rubio Supported Using Reconciliation To Repeal The ACA. “Marco Rubio, another potential 2016 presidential candidate, is one of the few leaving the door open to the budget reconciliation approach. He told a Denver talk show host last month that ‘I think we need to do it any way we can to get it done.’” [Politico, [1/11/14](#)]

2017: Marco Rubio: “We Just Don’t Have 60 Votes In The Senate To Do Things Outside Of That Reconciliation Product. I Think That This Needs To Be Happen.” “Rubio: Well, I want to repeal Obamacare, but I also don’t want to go back to the system we had in 2009. That didn’t work either. And understand that, when people talk about partial repeal, it’s because the process that’s being used for repeal is reconciliation. There are things you can do through reconciliation and there are things you cannot. And we just don’t have 60 votes in the Senate to do things outside of that reconciliation product. I think that this needs to be happen. Obamacare does need to be repealed.” [“State Of The Union,” CNN, 3/5/17]

TIM SCOTT SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO ENACT MULTIPLE REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

2015: Scott: “I’d Like To Be Able To Use Reconciliation For More Than One Objective.” “‘I’ve already voted on Obamacare 41 times; I think I need 42,’ said Sen. Tim Scott with tongue in cheek. ‘Tax reform’s very important, but I think we did make a commitment to the American people,’ Scott added. ‘So I think it’s important for us to follow through on that commitment. But I’d like to be able to use reconciliation for more than one objective.’” [The Atlantic, [7/28/15](#)]

DAN SULLIVAN SUPPORTED USING RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL THE ACA

2015: Sullivan Urged His Colleagues To Support Repealing The ACA Through Reconciliation. “U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) spoke on the Senate floor today, calling on his colleagues to pass the Restoring Americans’ Health Care

Freedom Reconciliation Act, which would repeal the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare. If it passes, it will be the first time a bill to repeal will end up on the president's desk." [Dan Sullivan Press Release, [12/3/15](#)]

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]

PAT TOOMEY WANTED TO USE RECONCILIATION TO REPEAL BANK REGULATIONS

HEADLINE: "GOP Should Go It Alone on Gutting Bank Rules, Senator Says" [Bloomberg, [3/30/17](#)]

2017: Pat Toomey Wanted The GOP To Use Reconciliation To Remove Bank Regulations: "We Need To Be Willing To Proceed Using Reconciliation." "Making big changes to the Dodd-Frank Act that would rein in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau or limit regulators' ability to provide a lifeline to failing banks probably won't win bipartisan support, Sen. Pat Toomey said Thursday. That's why Republicans should force through some revisions to the 2010 law through a budget process known as reconciliation that won't require votes from Democratic senators, the Pennsylvania Republican said. 'I don't see much prospect,' to persuading enough Democrats to approve legislation, Toomey said at a conference in Washington sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. 'We need to be willing to proceed using reconciliation.' Toomey has previously recommended using reconciliation to reduce constraints on banks, but his Thursday remarks were the most pessimistic he's been about securing bipartisan support to overhaul Dodd-Frank." [Bloomberg, [3/30/17](#)]

JOHN THUNE ENDORSED RECONCILIATION AS A WAY FOR REPUBLICANS TO ACCOMPLISH "MAJOR THINGS" FOR TRUMP

2017: John Thune: "The Major Things That The President And His Team Want To Get Done On Their Agenda Can Already Be Accomplished At 51." "[Thune](#): The one thing I will point out, however, is that the health care bill, because it's done through the budget reconciliation procedure here in the Senate, only requires 51 votes. We can do health care reform, insurance reform at 51 votes. We can do tax reform at 51 votes. So there isn't - all these things, the major things that the president and his team want to get done on their agenda can already be accomplished at 51." ["CNN Newsroom," CNN, 7/18/17]

2017: Thune Supported Using Reconciliation To Pass The Trump Tax Bill: "I Don't Know How You Do It Without Reconciliation." "So the GOP will plow ahead on a process that will force them, once again, to reconcile the considerable ideological gap between more moderate senators like Murkowski and Susan Collins of Maine on one end and Ted Cruz of Texas, Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Mike Lee of Utah on the other. 'There's no question that there is certainly comfort in margins, and we don't have margins for error,' Senator John Thune of South Dakota, the third-ranking Republican, told me on Tuesday. 'So each individual senator is very empowered when it comes to a big issue like this, and as we've seen a couple times, it's very easy to take a big bill like this down.' Still, Thune suggested Republicans

realistically had no other choice. 'I don't know how you do it without reconciliation, because then you'd have to get 60 votes,' he said." [The Atlantic, [9/27/17](#)]

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](#)]