



## HEALTHCARE ROUND-UP



February 23, 2017

### [House Republican Leaders Outline Plan to Replace the ACA](#)

*The New York Times*

House Republican leaders presented their rank-and-file members with the outlines of their plan to replace the ACA, leaning heavily on tax credits to finance individual insurance purchases and sharply reducing federal payments to the 31 states that have expanded Medicaid eligibility.

### [McConnell Intends to Replace 'Obamacare' Without Democrats](#)

*The New York Times*

Republicans will repeal and replace the ACA healthcare law and overhaul the tax code without Democratic help or votes, according to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). "It's clear that in the early months it's going to be a Republicans-only exercise," the Kentucky senator said at a news conference. "We don't expect any Democratic cooperation on the replacement of Obamacare, we don't expect any Democratic cooperation on tax reform."

### [A GOP Tax Idea Would Upend Employer-Based Insurance](#)

*BenefitsPro*

Some in the GOP are floating one possible solution: capping the federal tax breaks workers and companies get for employer-provided health insurance. The tax code's exclusion on health benefits is the nearly 80-year-old foundation of America's employer-based insurance system. The idea of capping it is a potentially scary prospect for insurers, raising questions about the future of the employer market, through which about 150 million Americans get insurance.

### [10 Members of Congress to watch on Obamacare](#)

*The Hill*

As President Trump, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) seek to build consensus on the path forward, here are 10 of the biggest political players to watch.

### [Employers Split on Impact of ACA Repeal](#)

*Employee Benefits News*

As the Trump White House shifts its focus to repealing and replacing the ACA, employers aren't expecting things to get any clearer, new data finds. LIMRA, a worldwide association of insurance and financial services companies, found in a December 2016 [survey](#) of 1,400 companies that employers are unsure how much of the ACA will be repealed or replaced, and what the consequences will be for workplace benefits.



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### [Single-Payer Healthcare Bill Introduced In California Senate](#)

*Kaiser Health News*

Legislation introduced in the California Senate last week would set the state on a path toward the possible creation of a single-payer healthcare system. The bill, which is a preliminary step, says that it is the “intent of the Legislature” to enact a law that would establish a comprehensive, single-payer healthcare program for the benefit of everyone in the state. The legislation, introduced by state Sen. Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens), does not offer specifics of what the plan would look like, nor does it mention a timetable.

### [10 Companies with Innovative Benefits Packages](#)

*Employee Benefits News*

From retirement and health plans to unlimited paid time off, work flexibility and hot new benefits such as student loan repayment and professional development, these 10 companies are leading the pack when it comes to innovation in the field. Here’s what they are doing differently.

### [Tech and Price Drive Changes in Insurance, Voluntary Benefits](#)

*BenefitsPro*

Technology is changing the marketplace for group life, annuities and voluntary benefits even as price keeps insurers on the lookout for cost reductions and improved efficiencies. That’s according to a [report](#) on business and technology trends from Novarica.

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As always, feel free to suggest topics we should cover in future emails. If you have any questions or experience any problems with links, please send a note to [Sarah Youssef](#) or [Thom Stohler](#).

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