Majority Of Floridians Want To Maintain Or Expand Obamacare

The GOP's health care plan is not playing well in the Sunshine State.

By Erin Schumaker

Floridians overwhelmingly voted Republican in the 2016 election, with 58 of 67 counties going to Donald Trump. But that doesn't mean they're in favor of Trump's campaign promise to repeal Obamacare, otherwise known as the Affordable Care Act.

A survey of 500 people by Florida Atlantic University recently found that nearly half of Floridians polled said they approve of the Affordable Care Act, compared to 39 percent who said they disapprove. What's more, 14 percent said they're happy with Obamacare as it is and 39 percent want to expand it, compared to 18 percent who want to...
repeal it and 29 percent who want to replace it with a GOP alternative. The poll was conducted online from March 10-13, and has a margin of error of +/- 4.3 percentage points.

Those aren’t theoretical opinions. Florida relies heavily on the Affordable Care Act, boasting the highest enrollment of any state with 1.7 million sign-ups.

“The majority of Floridians are not keen to the new health care proposals,” Monica Escaleras, director of the Business and Economics Polling Initiative at Florida Atlantic University, told The Huffington Post.

While opinions on the Affordable Care Act split predictably along party lines, another key factor that affects how Floridians feel about health care is age. Respondents older than 75 were the strongest opponents to a Medicaid cut, with a full 94 percent opposing Medicaid reductions. The GOP plan to replace Obamacare includes a $880 billion cut in projected Medicaid spending over 10 years.

Nearly 20 percent of Floridians were 65 years old or older as of 2015, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Under the Republican plan to replace Obamacare, premiums would increase for approximately 454,000 Floridians between the ages of 50 to 64 who currently receive Obamacare tax credits.

The “age tax,” as the AARP called it, would also allow insurers to charge older payers up to five times as much as the youngest payers. Currently, under Obamacare, insurers can charge the oldest enrollees up to three times as much as the youngest.

“Under the new proposals, many people will end up without health care insurance with costs [going] up,” Escaleras said. “Especially low-income minorities and low-income people in their 60s.”

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) at a news conference on the American Health Care Act, the GOP plan to replace Obamacare, on March 7, 2017.
“And right now, I am dealing with atrial fibrillation and probably will need a pacemaker in five years. Where is all the money going to come from? I don't know. It's very scary,” MacLellan said.

During an appearance on “Fox News Sunday” on March 19, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said Republican leaders were working to address concerns about their plan to replace Obamacare. “We think we should be offering even more assistance [for older Americans] than the bill currently does,” he said.

Republicans are still planning to bring the bill to a House vote on March 23.
WHAT’S HOT

The One Thing You Must Do In Each Country, According To Tourists

10 Comics That Will Speak To You If You’re Totally Sick Of Dating

5 Things No One Ever Told Me Would Destroy My Marriage

And Now, Andy Cohen With A Trump Diss To End All Trump Disses

Bullfighter Gored So Hard He Needs His Rectum Reconstructed (Graphic Video)

It’s Been Just 7 Months Since The Rio Olympics, And This Is What The Venues Look Like Now

People Aren’t Happy About The Trump Kids’ Vacation In Aspen

Camera Catches 2-Year-Old Twins Having Epic Party After Bedtime