



Pending

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate that Medicaid expansion is a priority and that Obamacare must be improved.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES _____ Sess.

Enr AMENDMENT N^o 0288

By *Heller* _____

To: *Amdt. No. 267* _____

Referred to the Committee on _____ and

Page(s) 3

GPO: 2016 22-945 (mac)

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by *Mr. Heller* to the amendment (No. 267) proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 SEC. ____ . SENSE OF THE SENATE.

3 It is the Sense of the Senate that—

4 (1) the committee of jurisdiction of the Sen-
5 ate—

6 (A) should review the issue of Medicaid ex-
7 pansion and coverage for low-income Ameri-
8 cans, and the incentives such expansion pro-
9 vides States for certain services;

1 (B) should consider legislation that pro-
2 vides incentives for States to prioritize Medicaid
3 services for individuals who have the greatest
4 medical need, including individuals with disabil-
5 ities;

6 (C) should not consider legislation that re-
7 duces or eliminates benefits or coverage for in-
8 dividuals who are currently eligible for Med-
9 icaid;

10 (D) should not consider legislation that
11 prevents or discourages a State from expanding
12 its Medicaid program to include groups or indi-
13 viduals or types of services that are operational
14 under current law; and

15 (E) should not consider legislation that
16 shifts costs to States to cover such care;

17 (2) Obamacare should be repealed because it in-
18 creases health care costs, limits patient choice of
19 health plans and doctors, forces Americans to buy
20 insurance that they do not want, cannot afford, or
21 may not be able to access, and increases taxes on
22 middle class families, which is evidenced by the facts
23 that—

24 (A) premiums for health plans offered on
25 the Federal Exchange have doubled on average

1 over the last 4 years, and those increases are
2 projected to continue;

3 (B) 70 percent of counties have only a few
4 options for Obamacare insurance in 2017, and
5 at least 40 counties are expected to have zero
6 insurers planning on their Exchange for 2018;

7 (C) 2,300,000 Americans on the Exchange
8 are projected to have only one insurer to choose
9 from for plan year 2018; and

10 (D) the Joint Committee on Taxation has
11 identified significant and widespread tax in-
12 creases on individuals earning less
13 than \$200,000; and

14 (3) Obamacare should be replaced with patient-
15 centered legislation that—

16 (A) provides access to quality, affordable
17 private health care coverage for Americans and
18 their families by increasing competition, State
19 flexibility, and individual choice; and

20 (B) strengthens Medicaid and empowers
21 States through increased flexibility to best meet
22 the needs of each State's population.