

## Daily News

### **GOP Study Committee Chair Would Vote Against Leaked GOP ACA-Repeal Bill, But Burgess Calls it 'Ancient History'**

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House Republican Study Committee Chair Mark Walker (R-NC) railed against the leaked draft bill that would repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, saying it amounts to a new health insurance entitlement with a Republican stamp on it. Walker said he would not vote for the bill and urged his RSC colleagues to also not vote for it. House Freedom Caucus Chair Mark Meadows (R-NC) also spoke out against the bill primarily due to its tax credits. The RSC has 172 members and the House Freedom Caucus 40--enough to derail a vote on the bill.

But House Energy & Commerce health subcommittee Chair Michael Burgess (R-TX) said he had not seen the leaked draft before and called it “ancient history.”

The draft GOP bill circulating Friday (Feb. 24) [would dismantle the Affordable Care Act by repealing most of the law's taxes](#), scrapping the individual mandate, punting to states on essential health benefits and gutting Medicaid expansion, while paying for the revamped health care system by capping the tax exclusion for employer-sponsored health insurance at 90 percent of premiums. The draft also would set up high-risk pools for beneficiaries with preexisting conditions and codify changes HHS implemented to stabilize the marketplace.

**Walker said in a statement Monday (Feb. 27) that the bill would delay action to reduce spending.** “There are serious problems with what appears to be our current path to repeal and replace Obamacare. The draft legislation, which was leaked last week, risks continuing major Obamacare entitlement expansions and delays any reforms. It kicks the can down the road in the hope that a future Congress will have the political will and fiscal discipline to

reduce spending that this Congress apparently lacks. Worse still," Walker said. "The bill contains what increasingly appears to be a new health insurance entitlement with a Republican stamp on it, Walker added. Walker told reporters his main issue is that he does not like refundable tax credits and while he can get on board with them, he said he needs a number at the minimum. Walker also said he wants to know what Medicaid expansion will look like long term and doesn't want to delay the process.

**Meadows told *CNN* on Monday that he has concerns about the tax credits in the draft.** "So the headline is that the GOP is reducing subsidies to needy individuals when in fact, the growth of the taxpayer-subsidized reimbursements will actually increase. The total dollars that we spend on subsidies will be far greater," he said. "So you can be a millionaire and not have employer-based health care and you're going to get a check from the federal government -- I've got a problem with that," Meadows told *CNN*. Meadows recently told reporters that he thinks the Republican "repeal plus" plan is problematic because it would not drive costs down. He also said [he prefers a tax deduction over a credit](#) and said he is against a refundable, advanceable tax credit. -- *Erin Raftery* ([eraftery@iwpnews.com](mailto:eraftery@iwpnews.com))

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