

What Others Are Saying About *The Patient CARE Act*

On January 27, 2014, U.S. Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Tom Coburn (R-OK), and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) unveiled a new plan to repeal Obamacare and replace it with commonsense solutions to expand access by reducing health care costs. Here is a sample of what others are saying:

Sarah Kliff in [Washington Post](#)

- “Republican Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) released Thursday what is arguably the most complete Obamacare replacement plan offered by their party to date.”

Jennifer Haberkorn in [Politico](#)

- “...the most serious policy alternative in the Senate since the president’s health law passed nearly four years ago.”

David Morgan in [Reuters](#)

- “...a legislative blueprint that analysts say could help the Republican Party offer a much-needed vision for healthcare ahead of November’s mid-term congressional elections...”

Alex Rogers in [Time](#)

- “The Republicans’ move is a politically savvy calculation.”
- “‘The most comprehensive and most serious alternative’ to the Affordable Care Act since it was introduced, according to Larry Levitt, the senior vice president for special initiatives at the Kaiser Family Foundation”
- “‘Every Republican plan that moves us toward health care freedom and away from the costly Obamacare law, as Republicans have repeatedly done over the last four years, is a step in the right direction,’ Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, wrote in an email to TIME.”

Karl Rove in [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- “Republicans also face a challenge. Criticizing Democrats for this terrible law is necessary but not sufficient. GOP candidates will need to explain what they would do to replace it. Republicans must present themselves as a party of change rather than simply one of opposition. That’s why the work done by Republican Sens. Tom Coburn, Richard Burr and Orrin Hatch on a comprehensive health-care reform that relies on competition and choice is so important.”

Joseph Rago in [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- “[The] plan represents important intellectual progress, not least because it disowns perfection that is unattainable in any case.”
- “With the imprimatur of the Senate Finance Committee—which Mr. Hatch will likely chair if the GOP retakes the Senate this fall—the Coburn plan is the de facto ObamaCare alternative.”

Danny Vinik in [Business Insider](#)

- “This is the most comprehensive Republican proposal to date that includes features of the president's health care law and centers it around solid conservative ideas.”
- “Wow, this does sound like a viable replacement.”
- “...continues to provide protections for people with pre-existing conditions.”
- “Individuals would likely have access to a wider variety plans...”

The Editorial Board of [Investor's Business Daily](#)

- “Unlike ObamaCare, the Burr-Coburn-Hatch plan would actually lower insurance costs, first by stripping out the benefit mandates, fees and taxes ObamaCare imposes, then by increasing competition in the market.”

Ryan Ellis in [Forbes](#)

- “The Patient Care Act raises taxes by (at most) \$1 trillion over a decade, and cuts taxes by (at least) \$1.1 trillion over a decade.”
- “The Patient Care Act is not only not a tax increase—it's a tax cut.”

Grace-Marie Turner in [Forbes](#)

- “The three senators would allow people to choose their own plans, allow those plans to be portable, institute consumer protections, and force companies to compete to offer the best price and the highest quality.”

Avik Roy in [Forbes](#)

- “A trio of experienced Senate Republicans—Tom Coburn (Okla.), Richard Burr (N.C.), and Orrin Hatch (Utah)—have put forth the most thoughtful and constructive plan yet developed to repeal and replace Obamacare.”
- “The best thing about this approach is that it would reduce spending and reduce the deficit; Obamacare is deficit neutral, but it substantially increases federal health spending, along with its massive expansion of federal health-care regulation.”
- “What it will do is substantially *deregulate* the health insurance market, a process that is likely to make health insurance less costly over time. “
- “The bottom line is this. The Coburn-Burr-Hatch plan is a serious, constructive, and pragmatic one.”

The Editorial Board of the [Chicago Tribune](#)

- “There's a better way to guarantee coverage. Last month, Republican Sens. Richard Burr of North Carolina, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Orrin Hatch of Utah offered a plan to preserve that key benefit but also emphasize individual responsibility over government fiat.”
- “Republicans in Congress don't have the votes to repeal and replace Obamacare. But they now have strong ideas to improve the law, building on the lessons already learned from Obamacare's failures.”

Timothy Stoltzfus in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#)

- “Senators Hatch, Coburn, and Burr are to be commended, however, for moving beyond simply demanding repeal and putting out a proposal, the effects of which can now be debated.”

Jeff Anderson in [The Weekly Standard](#)

- “Unfortunately for Obama, three senior Republican senators are releasing an alternative today that beats Obamacare in every particular.”
- “...would repeal Obamacare and address many of the most serious shortcomings of the pre-Obamacare status quo.”

James Capretta in [The Weekly Standard](#)

- “It could easily serve as the starting point for a legislative effort, perhaps even next year if Republicans regain control of the Senate, to undo Obamacare and replace it with something far better.”
- “This plan is well thought out substantively and politically. It would cover tens of millions of Americans with private insurance, solve the pre-existing condition problem, inject cost discipline into the marketplace, and begin the process of reforming the nation's massive health entitlement problems.”
- “What the public wants is real reform, the kind that will actually solve the problems that have been present for many years in American health care, without all of the big government baggage of Obamacare. The Burr-Coburn-Hatch plan demonstrates conclusively that such a plan exists and could be passed by Congress under the right political circumstances.”

Bill Kristol on [Face the Nation](#)

- “Senior Republican Senators tomorrow are going to layout the outlines of legislation that would be a conservative alternative to Obamacare. It would deal with preexisting condition problem, would have tax credits for the poor, it would get rid of all the ridiculous bureaucracy, regulation, and limitations of Obamacare. ... This is a serious piece of legislation; it could get pretty across the board support from Republican Senators.”

James Pinkerton in [Fox News](#)

- “Burr, Coburn, and Hatch have helped Republican prospects by doing something both intellectually responsible and politically astute: They have put a credible health insurance plan on the table. In other words, the Republicans aren’t just the party of ‘no to ObamaCare,’ they are the party of ‘yes to a sound health insurance alternative.’”

The Editors of [National Review Online](#)

- “The new health-care plan from Senators Tom Coburn, Orrin Hatch, and Richard Burr is the best one to emerge from Congress yet, and marks real progress in the campaign to replace Obamacare. The plan aims to make health insurance affordable for roughly as many people as Obamacare was intended to, but without the higher taxes, the regulatory micromangement, the threat of rationing, the reduction in consumer freedom, the vast new bureaucracies, or the perverse incentives. And while not perfect, it largely succeeds in these objectives.”
- “All in all, the plan is a major advance for free-market health care — even compared with the situation that obtained pre-Obamacare.
- “One of the great liberal conceits of the age is that to extend insurance coverage to the uninsured and make sure the sick do not fall through the cracks requires the centralized political management of the health sector. Given those objectives, the administration and its allies insist, Obamacare or something like it is the only game in town. The great service that Senators Coburn, Hatch, and Burr have performed is to explode that myth.”

Reihan Salam in [National Review Online](#)

- “...the most detailed and realistic blueprint for repealing and replacing Obamacare we’ve seen to date.”
- “Despite superficial similarities, Obamacare reflects the liberal approach and the PCA reflects the conservative approach.”
- “[T]he PCA represents not just an improvement over Obamacare, but also over the pre-Obamacare status quo.”

James Capretta in [National Review Online](#)

- “*Much* better than Obamacare.”
- “The three senators made it very clear that their plan would repeal the entirety of the Obamacare tax hikes. That, by itself, would represent one of the largest tax cuts in American history.”
- “The Burr-Coburn-Hatch plan would provide substantial net tax relief to the American people... has a far better chance of attracting the uninsured ... beats Obamacare on every metric that matters with the public.”

Yuval Levin in [National Review Online](#)

- “The senators’ proposal ... amounts to the most promising conservative health reform we have yet seen from Republican politicians.”
- “It is designed in a way that would extend the benefit now only available in the employer system without destabilizing the employer system (as some proposals to fully replace the employer exclusion would do) — which strikes me as both substantively and politically wise.”
- “...a major and important step, and a very encouraging one. The notion that Republicans have no alternative solution to the problems that bedevil our health-care system is one of the last remaining arguments that defenders of Obamacare have to offer the public. Republicans need to take that argument away from them and to offer a serious conservative approach to fixing America’s health-care system, which has long suffered under ill-conceived federal policies and is now being subjected to even worse ones. It increasingly seems like Republicans officeholders understand that.”

Yural Levin and Ramesh Ponnuru in [National Review Online](#)

- “A proposal unveiled in late January by Senators Tom Coburn, Richard Burr, and Orrin Hatch, however, has made it downright impossible to claim that Republicans aren’t offering serious, practical health-care ideas. Their proposal builds on some of those earlier initiatives but goes farther in the right direction.”
- “The proposal is a huge step forward for Republican health-care policy.”
- “Counting its repeal of Obamacare’s tax increases, though, the Republican plan looks likely to amount to a large tax cut.”

Lanhee Chen in [Bloomberg View](#)

- “Analysts across the political spectrum recognize that the existing (essentially unlimited) tax preference for employer-sponsored health insurance drives up health-care utilization and costs. It also creates a cost disadvantage for anyone seeking to purchase health insurance independent of an employer.”
- “Reform of the existing tax treatment of health insurance is an important step toward reducing costs and avoiding the rationing and service limits that afflict the health-care systems of many other countries.”

Jonathan Easley in [The Hill](#)

- Details the January 30, 2014, [report published by The Center for Health & Economy](#) showing how the Patient CARE Act reduces health care costs, lowers premiums, expands coverage, preserves access to doctors, and does not add to the deficit.

David Catron in [The American Spectator](#)

- “The CARE Act, unlike the stillborn Obamacare, is a serious health care reform proposal.”
- “If managed properly, the CARE Act could save U.S. health care and regain the Senate for the GOP.”

Marc Rotterman in [Townhall.com](#)

- “[W]ith the introduction of this bill, Senators Burr, Coburn and Hatch have offered a serious and practical proposal to replace Obamacare with something much better for the American people.”

Benjamin Domenech in [The Heartland Institute](#)

- “[T]he most realistic and centrist proposal we’ve seen yet in the post-Obamacare era.”
- “...a positive step in the right direction and a realistic approach designed to transition away from Obamacare and into a more market- and patient-friendly direction.”

Dan Liljenquist in [The Deseret News](#)

- “Republicans have a blueprint to replace Obamacare, repair the damage it has caused, and stabilize the health care insurance marketplace, all while improving health insurance access for Americans.”
- “The Patient Care Act is an excellent platform for the 2014 election cycle and a serious, thoughtful framework for future health insurance reforms.”