

## Health Care Hook-Up

Written by Jeffery L. Boney, Associate Editor  
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You know it is crazy to me, when I see federally elected officials on both sides of the aisle in the House of Representatives, Democrats and Republicans, voting to repeal the landmark Affordable Care Act (ACA) that was championed by President Barack Obama.

It always amazes me how a person, who doesn't have the same concerns and issues surrounding healthcare, can callously deny the same hook-ups and opportunities that they have access to and enjoy without worry.

When the ACA was originally passed, Congress required members of Congress to get their insurance on exchanges, just like the rest of the public. This was an attempt to allow them to shoulder the same burden and experience the same things that average, ordinary Americans do.

The challenge though is that many elected officials want their cake and eat it too, by voting to protect the profits of their insurance company campaign donors and to ensure they maintained a lifetime of taxpayer-funded government health care.

See, repealing the Affordable Care Act isn't just an opportunity to embarrass President Obama and make him look bad; it's about making sure their folks keep getting the hook-up also.

In voting to repeal that law, House Republicans and a handful of Democrats were also voting to go back to the old system where federal lawmakers get a 'hook-up' that most people in the rest of our country don't. It would allow members of Congress to keep their federal government-subsidized insurance coverage after they retire, a benefit they lost with the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

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Because of the ACA, lawmakers and staff have to get coverage through the insurance exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act law, essentially kicking members of Congress and their aides out of the healthcare program for federal employees they had always enjoyed.

A Republican amendment to the Affordable Care Act, introduced and championed by Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), ensured that lawmakers live under the same rules as their constituents.

The House of Representatives have passed a bill, repealing the ACA, 33 times. In those bills, House Republicans and a handful of Democrats in swing states, voted against a Democratic motion that said members of Congress who support repealing the health care law must also repeal the good stuff they get, such as lifetime care and insurance regardless of pre-existing conditions.

Now why would they do that?

Can we say, "HOOK UP?"

These federally elected officials vote to give themselves taxpayer funded lifetime guaranteed health care instead of having the same health care as their constituents. Members of Congress are eligible for retirement benefits after just five years, so who could blame many of them for wanting to repeal the ACA, stay in office forever or for at least five years to get the lifetime 'hook-up'?

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