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[GOP Keeps Pushing on Obamacare Repeal as Path Forward Remains Murky](#)

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A majority of respondents to a CBS News [poll](#) released on Monday said they disapprove of the repeal-and-replace legislation put forth by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA). The bill has been met with resistance from [federal healthcare administrators](#), [grassroots activists](#) and even the [insurance industry](#). Nevertheless, [it persists](#).

Senators Graham and Cassidy have made revisions to their bill in an effort to appease [holdout GOP Senators](#) Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Rand Paul (R-KY) and John McCain (R-AZ). McCain [said](#) on Friday that he would not support Graham-Cassidy, and Paul appears firm in his opposition. Collins and Murkowski, both of whom voted against the GOP's last repeal-and-replace efforts in July, appear to be leaning no. And Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) said he and fellow conservative Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) were not yet on board with the legislation, either.

The bill's proponents continue to insist it has a chance of passing, though the path forward is unclear.

"The only way you'll know how people vote is when you actually vote," Graham said in an interview with ABC's Martha Raddatz over the weekend.

The Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on Graham-Cassidy on Monday afternoon. On Monday evening, the pair will appear on CNN to debate healthcare with Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

Republicans have to pass it before September 30, when their ability to get it through the Senate along a party-line vote expires.

Graham-Cassidy would scale back the federal government's role in healthcare and instead provide block grants to states. It would allow states exemption from Obamacare's protections for

those with preexisting conditions provided they establish they will provide "affordable and adequate" alternatives but does not clarify what exactly the standards are. The lack of specificity is at the heart of late-night host Jimmy Kimmel's [now-viral critique](#) of the bill.

President Donald Trump in an Alabama [radio interview](#) on Monday reported by The Washington Post criticized Republicans' inability to pass a healthcare bill after years of promising to repeal Obamacare but also appeared resigned to the idea that Graham-Cassidy seems unlikely to pass.

"Looks like Susan Collins and some others will vote against," he said. "So we're going to lose two or three votes, and that's the end of that."

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office is expected to release a partial analysis of Graham-Cassidy this week but won't have enough time for a complete report. The nonpartisan Brookings Institution has [estimated](#) the bill would result in 21 million fewer Americans with health insurance in 2026, and the scenario could worsen after that: Cassidy-Graham's block grants [sunset](#) in 2027.

"It's highly unlikely given the financial condition of many states that they're going to be able to absorb the costs necessary to assist in providing insurance coverage for their residents," said Michael D'Addio, principal at tax advisory firm Marcum LLP with a focus on healthcare and tax compliance. "Before that point, Congress is going to have to revisit this whole issue to see what they do."

Should Republicans fail to get Graham-Cassidy to the president's desk before the end of the month when fiscal 2017 comes to an end, they might seek to open a window for themselves by including healthcare in budget reconciliation instructions for 2018. Many Republicans, including the president, are eager to turn to tax reform in the 2018 bill, but healthcare could make a resurgence.

"If they come out of 2017 not being able to pass a healthcare bill, I don't think this is the end of their attempt to try to do something with healthcare," D'Addio said. "You have to expect that to come back in 2018 with new efforts to make changes to the law."