

GOP Pumps Brakes on Healthcare Reforms in Third Party-Line Bill

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Summary by Bloomberg AI

- Key House Republicans threw cold water on the inclusion of extensive healthcare reforms in a third partisan legislative package later this year.
- Rep. Morgan Griffith said healthcare reforms cannot be a majority of a subsequent party-line bill because so much was already done in the reconciliation law enacted last year.
- Some Republicans expressed opposition to a third package if it includes cuts to healthcare, with Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick saying "if they're going to eat into Medicaid, no, we're not doing that."

Key House Republicans on Tuesday threw cold water on the inclusion of extensive healthcare reforms in a third partisan legislative package later this year.

Some Republicans, led by Rep. [Jodey Arrington](#) (Texas), have insisted that the party move forward with another reconciliation package and potentially include healthcare reforms to address fraud.

But Rep. [Morgan Griffith](#) (R-Va.), chair of the influential House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, told reporters that he communicated to leadership that healthcare reforms cannot be a majority of a subsequent party-line bill because so much was already done in the reconciliation law enacted last year.

Griffith dismissed major overhauls and said the healthcare systems "need to adjust to the changes we've already made," although said smaller measures such as funding cost-sharing reductions could be included.

Political Considerations

But that's only if a third package sees the light of day in this Congress. Rising costs of healthcare have become a liability for Republicans in the midterms.

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a vulnerable Republican in a Pennsylvania district won by former Vice President Kamala Harris, was doubtful another reconciliation bill happens at all, and already expressed opposition to a third package if “they’re going to chip away at healthcare.”

“If they’re going to eat into Medicaid, no, we’re not doing that,” he said. “I don’t want to judge something I haven’t seen yet, but if that’s the path that they’re heading down, they’re not going to get the support for that.”

Republicans already enacted substantial changes to healthcare policy, including mandatory Medicaid work requirements, in their 2025 law. [KFF estimates](#) that the new regulations will slash the program by more than \$900 billion over a decade under the law.

Rep. [Tom Cole](#) (R-Okla.), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said he was open to crafting a third reconciliation package but said it would be a difficult lift.

“The more things you do, the harder it gets, because it’s just simply a matter of mathematics,” he said of including healthcare reforms. “You’re going to offend somebody, and we don’t have many people to lose.”

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