

Lawmakers pitch Trump health agenda for third reconciliation bill

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A group of GOP lawmakers is pushing to include some of President Donald Trump's health care proposals in a potential third reconciliation package, even as the prospect of such a measure appears remote to many

Rep. [Eric Burlison](#), R-Mo., on Wednesday pitched his bill ([HR 8324](#)), which would codify several health proposals in Trump's so-called "Great American Health Care Plan." They include expanding health savings account contributions and making prices more transparent.

"A real market lets people see prices, compare options, and take their business elsewhere," Burlison said. "That's not how health care works today unfortunately." He added that the reconciliation process would give Congress "a vehicle and a chance to move this great bill forward and become law."

Also appearing at the news conference were GOP Reps. [Mike Kennedy](#) of Utah, [Chip Roy](#) of Texas, [Troy Downing](#) of Montana and [Tom Barrett](#) of Michigan.

The legislation, introduced in April, would increase the maximum that people can contribute annually to health savings accounts, and allow for additional contributions for people over age 50. The bill would also expand the types of HSA-eligible purchases to include things like healthy foods and fitness expenses.

The bill would also include price transparency legislation ([S 2355](#)) that would extend rules established in the first Trump administration to clinical laboratories, imaging

centers, and ambulatory surgical centers. It would increase the financial penalties for hospitals and insurers that fail to disclose their negotiated rates. The bill also aims to make the information more accessible and understandable to patients.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee Health subcommittee held a hearing earlier this month that included consideration of its companion transparency bill ([HR 5582](#)). The Senate version has also seen momentum, though it has yet to be marked up.

Republican leadership is also eyeing waste, fraud, and abuse measures to include in a potential reconciliation measure. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Director Mehmet Oz met with GOP leaders, including Speaker of the House [Mike Johnson](#), R-La., earlier this month to pitch ideas.

But the chances of another party-line bill coming to fruition before the midterms are slim, with some GOP members having already expressed their opposition to such an effort.

Further complicating matters, Congress has struggled to pass other key legislation in recent weeks. The House on Wednesday [postponed a vote](#) on a rule for two appropriations bills as conservative pressure ramps up to pass voting restrictions.

Trump on Wednesday abruptly canceled his signing of a bipartisan housing package ([HR 6644](#)), saying he wouldn't sign unless Congress takes action on the so-called SAVE America Act ([S 1383](#)), a controversial voter identification measure. Trump then presided at a closed-door meeting with senators at the Capitol, but according to Sen. [Jim Justice](#), R-W.Va., the prospect of a third reconciliation bill didn't come up.

