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TODAY'S "QUICK HIT": REPEAL AND REPLACE VS. FIX ... WHO CARES?

By Stephen L. Bakke  June 16, 2017



Here's what provoked me:

Our legislators must make changes to our healthcare payment system, but they seem to be hung up on terms. I'm not so sure that whatever the process is called, and whatever certain details might be, that we wouldn't end up in just about the same place, whatever path we follow. Let's get on with it!

Here's my response:

Repeal and Replace vs. Fix ... Who Cares?

Many goals of Obamacare have merit and bipartisan support, such as dealing, in some manner, with preexisting conditions. It was the structure and implementation of the legislation that caused its failure. Regarding a solution, I believe part of our argument involves semantics. I suggest we acknowledge that "repeal and replace" and "fix" take us to a very similar place.

Here's my layman's understanding of the two competing solutions:

Fix Obamacare: This implies that over the next [fill in the blank] months each of the various elements of Obamacare, individually and in a logical order, would be changed and replaced with new provisions.

Repeal Obamacare and Replace It: This implies that Obamacare would be officially repealed, but with provisions and timing fully planned for replacement. And then, over the next [fill in the blank] months, each of the various elements of the system, individually and in a logical order, would be changed and replaced with new provisions.

At the level of government and bureaucracy that would accomplish either of these, the tasks wouldn't be identical, but probably remarkably similar.

We should reduce this inevitable "change" to its simplest elements and then proceed to get it done.