

**Statement of The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Before the Senate Finance Committee  
September 25, 2017**

Health care in the United States is in the throes of an unrelenting tailspin. Thrust upon us on Christmas Eve in 2009, Obamacare has been an unmitigated disaster. Premiums are growing at unsustainable rates; insurers are fleeing exchanges and dropping coverage, and patients across the country are in many cases down to a few, or in some cases zero options to purchase coverage.

In my state of South Carolina, we are down to one carrier offering coverage in the exchange. In 2014, we had five carriers. Exchange based plans are relied on by around 200,000 people in South Carolina. Premiums are set to rise over 30% in South Carolina next year alone.

Across the country, the situation is no better. Next year, it is expected that 45 percent of all counties in America will have either one or no carriers offering coverage – impacting coverage where 12 million people live.

Medicaid and health care spending are on an unsustainable spending trajectory. Four high-spending states, California, New York, Maryland, and Massachusetts are receiving a disproportionate share of all Obamacare funds. They are receiving nearly 40% of all Obamacare spending, with only just over 20% of the country's population. This is not only inequitable, but unsustainable. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson restores parity among the states and reforms spending inefficiencies.

Today we stand at a defining crossroads – with three options: 1. Prop up Obamacare; 2. Berniecare, as introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders, or 3. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson.

Do we continue the march to single-payer through Obamacare, and now Berniecare, or do we empower the states to design patient-centered health care in the local communities where patients live?

Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson embraces federalism and takes the power and money to direct health care out of Washington and to the states. Our proposal is the last best chance to end the march to single-payer healthcare. It is single-payer's worst nightmare.

We are in the defining fight for the future of health care in America. Obamacare has failed. Berniecare is the end of patient choice and innovation. Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson is the last and best hope to empower patient-centered health care in America.

It is supported by as wide a coalition as President Donald Trump, Governor Jeb Bush, Alan Greenspan, and Breitbart. Most importantly, Repeal and Replace is being demanded of us by the American people. We hear their call to action, and are ready to pass Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson.

My cosponsors and I, this band of brothers, are here to fight for health care freedom, until Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson becomes the law of the land.