Following a final House vote, Congress sent a slightly tweaked version of the GOP tax reform deal to the president’s desk, in the process handing the Trump administration a first victory in its effort to gut the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The tax bill effectively repeals the ACA’s individual mandate in 2019.

The sweeping tax bill also sets the income threshold for a medical expense tax deduction at 7.5 percent through 2019 before reverting to 10 percent, and scales back the tax credit for orphan drugs.

While the tax deal is sealed, several health care measures that Congress had hoped to deal with before the end of the year are being bumped to January. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) had made her support for the tax bill contingent on Congress also passing market stabilization measures that would fund the ACA’s cost-sharing reduction payments to help insurers defray insurance costs for certain low-income beneficiaries and institute a reinsurance program. But strong resistance from the House GOP for including such measures in a year-end short-term continuing resolution bumped the market stabilization bills to January. Collins and Senate health committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) said the bills would be taken up as part of an omnibus package early in January.

Also bumped to January are bills to fund the Children’s Health Insurance Program, community health centers and other health care extenders.