McConnell Leads AHCA Senate Working Group

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is leading a group of lawmakers who will prepare the upper chamber’s version of health reform legislation for a floor vote.

The health care panel includes four members of Senate leadership — McConnell, Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX), GOP Conference Chair John Barrasso (R-WY), and GOP Policy Committee Chair John Thune (R-SD). Finance Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Budget Chair Mike Enzi (R-WY), and health committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) represent the committees of jurisdiction. Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Mike Lee (R-UT) represent the far right of the GOP conference. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) both of whom have voiced concern about the Medicaid expansion phase-out in the House-passed American Health Care Act are also on the panel. Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) are also part of the group.

Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who introduced more moderate health reform legislation early this year, are not part of the group. Several House moderates who voted in favor of AHCA said prior to the floor vote that they expected the Senate to make crucial changes to the bill to make it more palatable for centrists.