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- Doug Fernandez: Senate Republicans introduced their health care bill, but the much anticipated plan may be dead on arrival, as Republicans already aren't happy.
- Doug Fernandez: The Senate's plan to overhaul the Affordable Care Act eliminates Obamacare's mandate for Americans to have insurance, allows states to apply for waivers to opt out of covering essential health benefits like maternity and drug abuse care, but protects coverage of pre-existing conditions and eventually calls for deeper cuts to Medicaid, defunds Planned Parenthood, and restricts abortion coverage.
- President Trump is already looking ahead to negotiations.
- President Trump: I would love to have some Democrat support, but they're obstructionists. They'll never support ... We won't get one, no matter how good it is.
- Doug Fernandez: Democrats jumping on the President's comment that the House version of the bill was "mean." The Senate plan, they call "even meaner."
- Chuck Schumer: This is a nasty bill, and they're trying to cover it up with little things here and there.
- Doug Fernandez: If the bill passes, it goes back to the House.
- Nancy Pelosi: So sad, Mr. President. Heartless. Mean and heartless. And this is the same thing. It's the same thing all over again.
- Speaker 6: I want them to pass the bill so we can all get on with keeping our promise.
- Doug Fernandez: At this point, it appears Republicans do not have the vote to pass it. They could only lose two votes, but four GOP senators have already come out against the plan.
- Speaker 1: The Medicaid cuts could really hit New Mexicans hard. There are 900,000 people on Medicaid in our state. That's about double the number of people in Albuquerque. About 250,000 people could lose coverage under the plan. Action Seven News reporter Sandra Ramirez spoke with one man who says if it passes, it would be catastrophic for him.
- Sandra Ramirez: These are Adam Shand's wheels. The price tag on this wheel chair is a little more than the average cost of a car. Shand has cerebral palsy. Medicaid paid for this chair. Without it, Shand would be stuck in bed all day, which is what he's

worried could happen to hundreds of thousands of New Mexicans if their Medicaid benefits are cut.

Adam Shand: It would be catastrophic.

Sandra Ramirez: If he were to add up the cost of health insurance, medication, medical equipment, Shand estimates it would be-

Adam Shand: A million dollars per year, or two.

Sandra Ramirez: Those costs are similar for a lot of other New Mexico families who have children with special needs. Shand works for Parents Reaching Out, a non-profit that helps connect a lot of those families with resources, including Medicaid. He tells me 40% of New Mexicans receive Medicaid benefits, more than any other state. Like many of those hundreds of thousands of families, Shand is uncertain of the future.

Adam Shand: I have cerebral palsy, but do I know for a fact that it's going to be covered? I can't adequately answer that right now.

Sandra Ramirez: In Albuquerque, I'm Sandra Ramirez, KOAT, Action Seven News.

Doug Fernandez: We got a chant to ask Governor Martinez what she thinks about the proposal. She hadn't gone over it, but here's what she wants in the plan.

Susana Martinez: Obamacare really has been a disaster and a failure, because millions of people in the country have lost their insurance and it has become much more expensive for families and small businesses to have insurance. So we have to make sure that number one, we're protecting the most vulnerable in our state, but that also we're not raising costs on our families.

Doug Fernandez: Our lawmakers are responding. Senator Tom Udall spoke on the Senate floor against it and Senator Martin Heinrich talked to our Washington news room.

Tom Udall: And when President Trump said that the House version was a mean bill, this is a meaner bill. They are not necessary. These cuts are meaner and they are not necessary to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They will hurt millions of Americans.

Martin Heinrich: It makes deeper cuts to Medicaid, for example. That's going to decimate our ability in New Mexico to treat people for opioid and heroin addiction.

Doug Fernandez: Congressman Ben Ray Luján called the bill mean as well, and heartless. We reached out to New Mexico's only Republican representative, Steve Pearce, for comment but we did not hear back.

Well this-