



## Conservative Lobbyists And Fiscal Hawks Push Reconciliation 3.0 With HSA Expansion, Price Transparency Reforms

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Conservative lobbyists and some GOP representatives want to see significant health care reforms such as expanding access to health savings accounts (HSAs) and increasing price transparency in a potential third reconciliation bill, although the possibility of the package remains unclear.

Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO) told *Inside Health Policy* Wednesday (June 24) that if Republicans do not pass a third reconciliation bill, the party will be in deep trouble, noting that many programs could go unfunded, resulting in a government shutdown. But Burlison believes health care will be a key element of such a package.

**“I can tell you that there’s a lot of members that are not going to vote for any reconciliation 3.0 product unless it has significant health care reform in it,” Burlison told *IHP*.**

Burlison introduced the Great American Healthcare Plan (H.R. 8324) in April. The legislation mirrors the White House’s “Great Healthcare Plan,” and would expand access to health savings accounts (HSAs), increase price transparency by requiring more price reporting from hospitals and insurers, expand access to alternative coverage arrangements and allow beneficiaries to use HSA dollars for wellness services.

The Great American Health Alliance backs Burlison’s bill and held a press conference on Capitol Hill Wednesday morning to push for the bill to be included in a potential third reconciliation bill, just as President Donald Trump was set to arrive to Statuary Hall to sign a bipartisan housing bill. Trump ultimately skipped the signing, posting to social media that he would not sign the legislation until Congress passes the SAVE America



Act, which House Speaker Paul Ryan introduced Wednesday, is a third reconciliation bill, according to reporting from *Punchbowl News*. However, Trump said late Wednesday afternoon he would not accept a compromise SAVE America Act in a reconciliation bill.

**The House Freedom Caucus (HFC), of which both Roy and Burlison are members, sent a letter to Johnson Wednesday outlining the caucus' wish list for reconciliation 3.0.** HFC wants a third reconciliation bill with dollar-for-dollar spending cuts that includes extending H.R. 1's restriction on federal funding for abortion providers, along with anti-fraud policies and health care reforms that "empower patients, lower costs and expand healthcare choices."

At the briefing, Great American Health Alliance President Keith Nahigain advocated for Burlison's bill and called reconciliation 3.0 "a generational opportunity for this nation."

**And Katy Talento, a former White House special assistant under Trump's first term, spoke at the presser and urged lawmakers to use reconciliation to pass more health care reforms.**

"It's about time that we take the opportunity of a reconciliation," Talento said. "This is a gift from heaven that founding members of Congress gave us in the budget process. And if we don't use it, we are the dumbest, and we don't deserve power. So this is something we have to do, y'all."

**Both Roy and Burlison claimed the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) scoring for the bill would not reflect the actual cost of the bill, arguing CBO would inflate the cost.**

"We're not going to do this unless we stop worrying about figuring out the fake math that the CBO and [the Joint Committee on Taxation] are going to tell you this cost," Roy said during the presser. "That's all driven by the lobby. The lobby in this town doesn't want change, so they're telling you that it's going to cost a fortune for us to do what we should do, which is give people freedom."



“CBO is not real” got a lot of fiscal hawks like myself and Chip and others who are willing to say we recognize that whatever CBO is going to say is the quote unquote ‘cost’ is phony math, we’re willing to put that aside, and that the rest of reconciliation 3.0 should be payfors,” Burlison told IHP. “So any other expenditures, whether it's for the military or other needs to be paid for through whatever savings we can find,” Burlison told *IHP*. -- *Sigi Ris* (sris@iwpnews.com)