



H.R. 2579 – Broader Options for Americans Act (Tiberi, R-OH)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered June 15, under a rule.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2579](#) would ensure that the advanceable, refundable tax credits that would be created under the American Health Care Act (AHCA) to subsidize the purchase of health insurance in the individual market would also be available for unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#) estimates that H.R. 2579 could affect direct spending and revenues if AHCA is enacted, but would have no effect on revenues or direct spending relative to current law, because it is contingent on passing AHCA.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** Yes, the bill would expand the types of plans that the tax credits created under H.R. 1628 could be applied to.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 2579 would allow the new tax credits created under AHCA to subsidize the purchase of health insurance in the individual market to be applied to unsubsidized COBRA continuation coverage. Under current law, individuals who experience an event that would otherwise result in loss of their employer-sponsored health insurance coverage, like termination of employment, may temporarily continue that coverage. Employers generally no longer continue to pay a portion of the plan's premiums, however, so individuals electing this option are responsible for both the employer and employee share.

This bill is contingent upon the enactment of AHCA, and will apply to months after December 31, 2019, should the legislation pass. Similar language was included in the reconciliation legislation reported by the Committee on Ways and Means on March 8, but was removed during Rules Committee consideration due to concerns it could run afoul of the Senate rules governing reconciliation and thus jeopardize privilege of the bill in the Senate, which is required to ensure a 51-vote threshold for approval.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced by Representative Tiberi (R-OH) on May 19, 2017 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Ways and Means Committee reported the bill on June 2 by a vote of 23-15.

Read the committee report [here](#).

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.