Health care policy in Washington

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Agenda: Health policy in Washington today

• The current state of the Affordable Care Act
• The potential for bipartisan changes to the ACA
• The Obamacare truth is out there—or is it?
• What’s next?
The current state of the ACA

- Republican repeal efforts failed
  - The GOP had until Sept. 30 to approve a bill with only 50 Senate votes
- Republicans plan to bring it back in the spring
  - After tax reform, they plan to renew ability to pass a bill with 50 votes
  - Senate GOP has rallied around Graham-Cassidy
  - Success on tax reform could give the GOP momentum on repeal, or failure could pressure them to notch a legislative victory
- GOP faces daunting odds
The GOP repeal question:

How does the GOP square seven years of campaigning against the ACA – promising their voters and donors that they’d repeal the law – with the reality of the repeal defeat?
Bipartisan changes?

Alexander-Murray bill would:

• Fund the cost-sharing payments through 2019
• Give states new flexibility in 1332 waivers
• Allow for catastrophic health plans
Is the truth out there?

- A three-time Politifact “Lie of the Year” winner
- Two narratives emerged in rollout
- CBO demagoguery
What’s next?

- Children’s Health Insurance Program funding expired Sept. 30
- Open enrollment begins Nov. 1
- Government needs to be funded & debt limit needs to be raised in December
- Democratic-led lawsuits
- White House needs to name HHS secretary