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Gov. Ivey's health-care wishlist



Gov. Kay Ivey, then lieutenant governor, at former Gov. Robert Bentley's second inauguration in Montgomery in 2015. (Bill Wilson/The Anniston Star/file)

By the editorial board of The Anniston Star 15 hrs ago

The U.S. Senate is expected to consider replacing Obamacare this week. The first vote, which may come as soon as today, will test if a majority of senators are willing to begin debating on health care.

After weeks of silence from Gov. Kay Ivey on what kind of reform would best serve Alabama, her press secretary Daniel Sparkman told The Star on Monday that she desires (a.) "more flexibility" in how states can spend Medicaid dollars and (b.) no reduction in federal funding.

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The Senate bill will reduce the amount of money that otherwise would go to states' Medicaid programs, according to the Congressional Budget Office. A statement released last week by the board of the National Association of Medicaid Directors noted that "no amount of administrative or regulatory flexibility can compensate for the federal spending reductions that would occur as a result of this bill."

We commend Gov. Ivey for speaking up, and we encourage her to advocate for reforms that don't punish Alabama.

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