

Court decision on Obamacare could eliminate 1000s of Utahns' insurance

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KUTV) Over the last few years it's been a tug-of-war in congress over Obamacare. Just four little words could mean the death of it.

"Established by the states," a phrase written into the Affordable Care Act that makes insurance more affordable for those who maybe can't afford it. Those four words are being challenged by those in congress who have been against Obamacare since the beginning.

"They found a couple of words in the act...that they thought they could find a loophole with," said Jason Stevenson with the Utah Health Police Project. It caused a lawsuit going as far as the Supreme Court.

A decision is expected to be made within days, but Stevenson says the problem is that if the Supreme Court goes against Obamacare it could cut nearly 100,000 insurance holders in Utah.

One of those is business owner Phil Sherburne and his wife Leia who own Signed and Numbered, a framing business in South Salt Lake.

"It's pretty nerve-racking, [It's] kind of why I've been avoiding it to some extent. You know, out of sight, out of mind," said Sherburne,

He said he was one of the first people in Utah to sign up for Obamacare when it came out a few years ago and it has helped cover his family, business and employees but now that's being threatened.

"If the subsidies go away, than we go back to being uninsured."

Stevenson said the whole reason for Obamacare in the first place was to give those who needed help, subsidies to make their health insurance more affordable, but it's turned into a political game.

"It really is a bit of politics. Unfortunately it's 100,000 Utahans' who stand to lose something,"

That decision could come any day. Stevenson said that taking away the subsidies, taking away the insurance, creates what is called a death spiral which means only the sick people remain and the insurance companies can't stay in business.

"Until it happens...I'm just hoping not to lose our insurance," he said.