

Senator Hatch says ACA is a failure, renews call to repeal and replace

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Published 11/23 2015 04:58PM

Updated 11/23 2015 06:34P

Video: <http://www.good4utah.com/video?videoid=6086808>

Link: <http://www.good4utah.com/news/top-stories/senator-hatch-says-aca-is-a-failure-renews-call-to-repeal-and-replace>

Salt Lake City, Utah- (ABC 4 Utah) – The third open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act is underway and congressional republicans are still pushing to repeal the controversial law.



Utah Senator Orrin Hatch is just as skeptical today as he was three years ago.

"I wish the system would work better, but the way it's designed, it's designed by the left to have one central control with a bureaucracy that really doesn't work that well," said Hatch, (R) Ut.

Hatch and other congressional republicans want to repeal the ACA and replace it.

Hatch's solution is the Patient CARE Act.

He says it's a sustainable, patient focused reform plan.

One that would take most of the power from the federal government and give it to the states.

"We can do it for ourselves, we can do it cheaper for ourselves, we can do it much more broader for ourselves, we can do it in a much more sophisticated way for ourselves," said Hatch.

ACA advocates admit it's been a rough year with co-ops closing across the country, but they defend the law.



"They said the website would never get fixed, they said that no one would sign up, they said this insurance wouldn't be popular. Well, all those things have worked out well for the Affordable Care Act. People have signed up, the website works great and it's still going on," said Jason Stevenson with Utah Health Policy Project.

Stevenson actually agrees with a lot of Senator Hatch's plan, but he also has concerns.

He says it could potentially bring back customers being denied for preexisting conditions.

"Senator Hatch's plan would only allow you to sign up and not be charged more for being sick as long as you maintain continuous coverage. If you have a lapse in coverage then it's back to the dark ages of insurance," said Stevenson.

Hatch knows any successful effort to repeal would be vetoed by President Obama, but he says it's still important to send that message.

Open enrollment runs through January 31, 2015.

For help with the process you can call 211 or go to www.takecareutah.org.

