“House Republicans Shot Themselves in the Foot”

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Readers react to the passing of a new version of the American Health Care Act in the House.

President Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan at the White House in Washington. (Photo: Evan Vucci, AP)

Letter to the editor:
Shame on House Republicans who voted to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. A heavy political price might be paid. In the words of Rep. Steny Hoyer, R-Md., Republicans “will rue the day.”

Though in the short run House Republicans can declare a Pyrrhic victory, boasting that the GOP-controlled Congress was able to pass a bill, in 2018 voters in their districts will remember that they voted for what several Republicans, most non-partisan analysts and nearly every major health organization believe is a bad policy that will seriously hurt their constituents. Not to mention that this legislation won’t likely survive in the Senate.

Ironically, House Speaker Paul Ryan criticized Democrats in 2009 for trying to push through health care legislation to meet an “artificial deadline.” House Republicans haven’t learned a lesson from what happened to President Obama in the off-year election. A Democratic-controlled House in 2018 now seems more probable.

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