

# These 6 GOP Senators Voted to Repeal Obamacare in 2015–But Voted to Keep it in 2017

Six Senate Republicans who helped sink a ‘clean repeal’ of Obamacare this week had voted for a full repeal of the law in 2015.

In 2015, eager to send a political message, the U.S. Senate [passed a bill](#) that would have repealed most of Obamacare’s regulations and taxes. The legislation garnered 52 “aye” votes, but was overridden by then-President Barack Obama.

Most of those Senators are still in office (48 of 52). However, this week the Senate was only able to muster 45 votes. So what happened? Reason [has the answer](#):

*“Six senators who voted for the 2015 bill voted against the repeal effort.*

*They are Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., Dean Heller, R-Nev., John McCain, R-Ariz., Lisa Murkowski R-Alaska, and Rob Portman, R-Ohio.”*

It’s worth noting that each of these Senators also [voted against the passage](#) of Obamacare in 2010. Now, however, they can’t seem to bring themselves to repeal the law they voted against.

Worse, at least some of these Senators used the unpopularity of Obamacare to win reelection.

Just a year ago John McCain, for example, was [writing op-eds in Fox News](#) claiming Obamacare was collapsing and poised to leave 10,000 of his constituents in one county “without any health care options in the ObamaCare marketplace.”

Never fear, McCain said, Republicans were fighting for repeal and replace legislation. “In the meantime, Republicans will continue fighting **to repeal and replace this failed law with health care** that empowers Americans to choose the health care that works for them and their families – **not the federal government.**”

I suspect one could find similar rhetoric from Heller, Moore, Alexander, Murkowski, and Portman, if one was so inclined.

It’s difficult to grasp the logic. Six U.S. Senators\* vote against a law that passes. Several years later, they vote to repeal the taxes and regulations of the very same law. But in 2017, when their party holds the Senate, House, and presidency, they suddenly have a change of heart.

The Republican Party has used the unpopularity of the Affordable Care Act to achieve [historic gains](#) since its passage in 2010. They won the House [in 2010](#) and the Senate [in 2014](#), largely due to [orchestrated campaigns](#) that focused on repealing the law, which [doubled premiums](#) for many working-class Americans while cutting their coverage in half.

It’s difficult to not reach the conclusion that it’s all a political game for these Senators. This is why people are cynical about politics, folks.

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\*Make that seven; Susan Collins appears to fall into this camp as well.