



hfma™ arizona chapter
healthcare financial management association



THE HERTEL REPORT

Several factions wheeling and dealing to get what they want

We left off before the recess with House Republicans split between the Freedom Caucus insisting on wider scale repeal of some provisions of the ACA, the moderate Tuesday Group, the Speaker-led AHCA proponents, the Democrats insisting on maintaining cost-reduction payments and the Senate biding their time and the White House wanting some action to show progress.

Several bits of news : The Freedom Caucus composed of conservative Republicans stalled the attempt at moving the AHCA in March. Reps. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), and Raúl R. Labrador (R-Idaho) — all leaders of the Freedom Caucus and central figures in the latest discussions — signaled Tuesday they are ready to support a new plan, according to two White House officials who were not authorized to speak publicly. A lawmaker close to the Freedom Caucus later confirmed that those members were close to or ready to support the tweaked bill. Read their comments about moving forward in [**The Washington Post**](#)

The Freedom Caucus is officially backing a new proposed piece to add to the House Republicans' bill to repeal and replace Obamacare — a significant step toward getting to a floor vote. The eight-page amendment has been crafted by Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-New Jersey, a leader of the moderate Tuesday Group in the House, and it has been distributed to members of the GOP conference. His plan would allow states to receive federal waivers for certain Obamacare coverage requirements in an effort to encourage "fair health insurance premiums". Read about it at [**CBS News.com**](#)

The impending shutdown of the federal government if spending is not authorized by Friday has focused Congress on what can be gotten and given to reach compromise. Democrats have offered to agree to an additional \$15 billion in military funding as part of a spending package to keep the government operating, if Republicans in Congress agree to fund ACA subsidies. Signing off on the Democratic offer would avert a government shutdown set to begin Saturday. It would ensure that the reimbursements to health insurers would continue, preventing what could be a mass exit from the exchanges. That would be a victory for Democrats, who have sought to protect the payments. Read about the dealing on [**The Hill**](#).

"Cost-sharing reductions" are payments to carriers vital to the stability of the market according to insurers. Democrats want them. Insurers want them (or some threaten to leave the marketplaces). Speaker Ryan and his allies do not want them and have a suit pending to stop them on the grounds they were not appropriated by Congress though Obama wanted them. Read the Speaker's stance in [**The Wall Street Journal**](#). Stay tuned.