

... **at 7:04 a.m.:** "I know Rand Paul and I think he may find a way to get there for the good of the Party!" ... **at 7:13 a.m.:** "Alaska had a 200% plus increase in premiums under ObamaCare, worst in the country. Deductibles high, people angry! Lisa M comes through." ... **7:17 a.m.:** "It was great being with Luther Strange last night in Alabama. What great people, what a crowd! Vote Luther on Tuesday." ... **at 8:45 a.m.:** "Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team. Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!"

-- **@jaketapper:** "Focusing like a laser on the major problems of the American people: black professional athletes with opinions." ... **CBS'S JACQUELINE ALEMANY** (@JaxAlemany): "Tom Brady chose not to come to the White House and Trump didn't say a thing."

TRUMP IN ALABAMA, via Burgess Everett in Huntsville: "The president also threw a jab at Strange's opponent, Roy Moore, a controversial former Alabama chief justice, who, he argued, could lose to a Democrat in the December general election.

"Roy has a very good chance of not winning in the general election," Trump said. "Moore is going to have a hard time winning.' Trump's speech, which stretched on for well over an hour, represented a political risk. In declaring his unwavering support for Strange, who has the support of establishment figures like Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, the president is squaring off against longtime loyalists such as former chief strategist Steve Bannon who have come out forcefully for Moore ...

"I'm taking a big risk, because if he doesn't make it, they're going to go after me,' the president said, referring to the many members of the media who were in attendance at the Von Braun Center. Trump said he would face accusations that he couldn't get his candidate over the finish line.

"At some moments, he seemed to be bracing for the possibility of a Strange loss. He acknowledged that polls had shown the senator trailing throughout the race. And he said that if Moore came out ahead on Tuesday, he would campaign for him before the general election. 'I told Luther if his opponent wins, I'll be here campaigning like hell for him,' Trump said." <http://politi.co/2hq022W>

-- **WAPO'S JENNA JOHNSON:** "I might have made a mistake. I'll be honest, I might have made a mistake,' Trump told a crowd of several thousand gathered at the Von Braun Center that cheered much louder for him than for the candidate he was there to support, Sen. Luther Strange, who was appointed earlier this year to fill the seat

vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. ... 'And, by the way, both good men. Both good men,' the president said of the two Republican candidates. 'If his opponent wins, I'm going to be here campaigning like hell for him. But, I have to say this ... Luther will definitely win.'" <http://wapo.st/2ho9dol>

-- **"Trump to NFL owners: Fire players who kneel during anthem,"** by AP's Jill Colvin and Catherine Lucey: <http://bit.ly/2fnU3P1>

NOT FAKE NEWS -- "Carson breaks with Trump, backs Moore for Alabama Senate seat," by Cristiano Lima: "Judge Moore is a fine man of proven character and integrity, who I have come to respect over the years,' [HUD Secretary Ben] Carson wrote in a statement. 'I was delighted to hear he is running for the US Senate.' Carson, a devout Christian who garnered strong support from the religious right during the 2016 Republican primaries, praised Moore for his 'Judeo-Christian values.'" <http://politi.co/2xB8tC8>

IS HEALTHCARE REPEAL DEAD? -- "Dems not declaring victory yet on Obamacare," by Elana Schor and Heather Caygle: "When John McCain cast the decisive vote against Obamacare repeal two months ago, Chuck Schumer waved an arm to quiet fellow Democrats as they burst into audible elation. Don't gloat or cheer over the GOP's failure, Schumer signaled - a move he made again on Friday in a statement, after McCain delivered what looks like a fatal blow to his party's seven-year drive to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Far from celebrating, Democrats tempered their responses to McCain with reminders of the bipartisan health care talks that Republicans had walked away from when they took one last shot at repealing Obamacare.

"And even as their liberal base turned a rally to pressure McCain into a thank-you celebration, Democrats stopped far short of declaring repeal dead. ... Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's office did not immediately respond to questions about whether he will still hold the vote on the bill." <http://politi.co/2xA7NwZ>

-- **"Is Obamacare finally safe?:"** The clock may finally have caught up with Republicans after nearly 10 months of failed repeal efforts," by Jen Haberkorn and Paul Demko: "Obamacare has endured more than seven years of political attacks, dozens of congressional repeal votes and four Supreme Court challenges. But as of today, the Democrats' universal health care law is as secure as it's ever been. Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) opposition to the latest repeal effort sponsored by his closest friend in the Senate likely doomed the bill - and with it, the hope that Republicans could