

fulfill their campaign pledge to undo Barack Obama's signature domestic policy achievement before a Sept. 30 deadline.

"On top of that, the insurance markets are alive and, despite skyrocketing premiums and dwindling competition, face no threat of immediate collapse. ... 'I'll be honest, it seems unlikely that we'll be voting on this' next week, Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) told a town hall meeting Friday in Iowa City shortly after McCain's announcement." <http://politi.co/2yjJBMP>

-- **"Why McCain screwed the GOP on Obamacare repeal - again:** His friendship with Lindsey Graham was less important than his grievances with the process," by Burgess Everett and Seung Min Kim: <http://politi.co/2xA5MRd>

-- **ALASKA GOV. BILL WALKER** on the bill, to the New York Times: "In an interview, Mr. Walker said he did not believe any special accommodation could be reached for his state, because the overall structure was so damaging to Alaska. He said he had communicated his concerns extensively to Ms. Murkowski.

"Alaska would fare very, very poorly," he said. 'Nothing has been brought to my attention that would increase my comfort level.' A spokeswoman for Ms. Murkowski, Karina Petersen, said the senator is studying the matter. 'Senator Murkowski is still focused on how the bill will impact Alaska, specifically,' Ms. Petersen said. 'She's continuing to gather data and is looking at the details of the bill to determine what's best for her state.'" <http://nyti.ms/2xvOJPO>

***** **A message from UC Davis:** At UC Davis, unusual collaborations in veterinary medicine, human health and engineering lead to groundbreaking treatments for beloved pets and other animals, from furry to feathered. Those breakthroughs lead to translatable human medicine. It's a One Health approach that benefits the health of all. Learn more at 21stcentury.ucdavis.edu. *****

INSIDE THE ROOM -- NYT'S CARL HULSE: "Behind New Obamacare Repeal Vote: 'Furious' G.O.P. Donors": "As more than 40 subdued Republican senators lunched on Chick-fil-A at a closed-door session last week, Senator Cory Gardner of Colorado painted a dire picture for his colleagues. Campaign fund-raising was drying up, he said, because of widespread disappointment among donors over the inability of the Republican Senate to repeal the Affordable Care Act or do much of anything else. Mr. Gardner is in charge of his party's midterm re-election push, and he warned that donors of all stripes were refusing to contribute another penny until the struggling

majority produced some concrete results. 'Donors are furious,' one person knowledgeable about the private meeting quoted Mr. Gardner as saying. 'We haven't kept our promise.'" <http://nyti.ms/2jTUEJJ>

HOW IT PLAYED -- NYT: "McCain Rejects G.O.P. Health Bill, Likely Dooming It" <http://nyti.ms/2xXHYYM> ... **WAPO:** "Latest effort to repeal Obamacare on brink of failure after GOP defections" <http://wapo.st/2yxPd6M> ... **WSJ:** "GOP Health Push in Jeopardy as McCain Withholds Support" <http://on.wsj.com/2xnpyNZ>

-- AROUND THE COUNTRY: ARIZONA REPUBLIC (big McCain photo): "TWO THUMBS DOWN: McCain announces he will vote against latest attempt to repeal ACA" <http://bit.ly/2xZojrq> ... **THE POST AND COURIER:** "McCain votes no on Graham's bill: Decision likely dooms friend's health care legislation that McMaster now supports" <http://bit.ly/2y001O4> ... **CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER:** "Clinic CEO lobbies against repeal: Cosgrove says new bill being rushed without hearings" <http://bit.ly/2undnAR>

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Trump to talk tax reform in Indiana on Wednesday," by Nancy Cook: "President Donald Trump is planning to head to Indiana on Wednesday to give a major speech on tax reform, the same day that the 'Big Six' tax negotiators will unveil their broad-brushstrokes proposal for overhauling the tax code. ... Following the president's Indiana trip, several Cabinet secretaries including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administrator Linda McMahon will also participate in tax reform-related events and media outreach across the country."

-- "GOP eyes corporate tax rate of 20 percent, retreating from Trump's lofty goal," by WaPo's Mike DeBonis, Sean Sullivan and Damian Paletta: "Republicans are targeting a corporate rate of 20 percent in their federal tax overhaul plan, according to three people familiar with the emerging blueprint - a number that represents a substantial cut from the current 35 percent rate but falls short of the 15 percent President Trump has long pushed for. The plan remains fluid ... But they said the template is taking a more definite shape ahead of a planned rollout next week by the 'Big Six' negotiators from the White House, Senate and House." <http://wapo.st/2jSTTAX>

FLOTUS WATCH -- "Meetings with Prince Harry, Canadian PM for Melania Trump," by AP's Darlene Superville: "Melania Trump is ... leading the U.S. delegation to an international sporting event for wounded service members, her first solo trip