

Future of Health Care Reform in Grave Jeopardy

President Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress are regrouping on health care reform in the wake of Republican Scott Brown's win in last week's special election to fill former Senator Ted Kennedy's Massachusetts Senate seat. With that Republican win, the Senate Democrats lost their filibuster-proof majority in the upper chamber of the U.S. legislature. While the Senate bill would appear to represent the outer boundaries of legislation that could pass both houses, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has said that the Senate bill cannot win sufficient support in her chamber to pass. Maine Senator Olympia Snowe (R) said this about the status of health care reform: [They] need to “peel back the layers of the onion, so to speak, and go back to the drawing board.”

“People are really very much concerned, if not opposed, to the size and scope of this legislation, and the uncertainty that emanated from it,” she told reporters.

The AMA continues to track the health care reform debate in Washington on the web at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/health-system-reform/resources/resources-archives/our-vision.shtml>.

The MMA will keep you posted on the developments in the health care reform debate through this *Maine Medicine Weekly Update*.