

## Health care: Groups wait and watch

How the election will affect economy of the Space Coast

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As the midterm elections made clear, candidates' support for the Obama Administration's health care legislation was lethal at the polls.

The measure has its share of detractors in the business world, as well.

With the Republican surge, there is hope that some parts of the bill could be repealed and others changed.

Christine Michaels, president and chief executive officer of the Melbourne Regional Chamber of East Central Florida, said that organization was against many provisions of the health care legislation, as were many business groups.

One of the most unpopular was an IRS reporting requirement that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its chapters around the country rallied against.

"Our members are very concerned about that," Michaels said. "The sad thing is that it's going to hit everybody."

President Barack Obama said this week he is willing to "tweak" that portion of the bill. But there will be plenty of other components to fight over.

Other groups are watching and waiting.

Shawna Serig Kelsch, chairwoman of the Brevard County Healthcare Forum, a 14-year-old organization that serves as a county-wide coalition of health care providers and other organizations, said the non-partisan forum is not yet in a position to determine how newly elected representatives might affect health care delivery in Brevard or what changes they could spur.

"The forum's top priority is to support initiatives that increase access to quality health care for all Brevard residents," she said. "Our goal is to address critical medical and mental health care gaps in the county and work with legislators to provide workable and affordable solutions for both consumers and providers."

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