

Promise keepers

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

January 20, 2011

Yesterday, House Republicans passed a bill that, if enacted, would repeal last year's health-care reform bill. It won't be enacted; it'll never get past the Senate or the president. But the GOP took the House back in part because of its promises to repeal reform, so a symbolic effort was required.

While the bill is called the "Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act," the Republicans were sensitive enough to [change "killing" to "destroying"](#) when discussing the bill in the wake of the Tucson shooting. Now that's some visionary leadership--or rather, [was](#). On the House floor yesterday, [various GOP members spoke](#) about how health-care reform increases the deficit, raises taxes and cuts benefits. If anyone can make heads or tails of *that* formula, please let me know.

Democratic rhetoric hasn't been [universally civil and serious-minded](#), either. But by and large, reform supporters have effectively [seized the opportunity](#) for a second chance at communicating their case to the public. [This post](#) by Suzy Khimm highlights the millions of Americans whose health-care situation has been improved by the provisions of reform already in effect, while [this fact sheet](#) from the Center on Budget addresses a number of false claims made by proponents of repeal.

Health-care reform will survive this episode of political theater; it may even benefit from it. But that won't be the end--[as Jonathan Cohn argues](#), the real challenge may well come from the Supreme Court.