
News Alert: In health-care remarks, Obama embraces legislative tactic known as reconciliation

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President Obama on Wednesday endorsed the controversial legislative tactic known as reconciliation, saying his health-care overhaul deserves the same treatment as other significant legislation that has passed Congress with "nothing more than a simple majority."

"Reform has already passed the House with a majority," Obama said. " It has already passed the Senate with a supermajority of sixty votes. And now it deserves the same kind of up-or-down vote that was cast on welfare reform, the Children's Health Insurance Program, COBRA health coverage for the unemployed, and both Bush tax cuts - all of which had to pass Congress with nothing more than a simple majority."

Under such an approach, the House would pass the health bill passed by the Senate in December. The House and the Senate would then use reconciliation to pass a set of fixes to the bill, to satisfy the demands of lawmakers in the House.

Using reconciliation rules, the fixes could not be filibustered and Senate Democrats could approve them with a simple majority vote -- a move intended to bypass a Republican caucus that remains united in its opposition to the legislation.

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