

Health care overhaul rolls on despite budget havoc

March 1 2013, by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

(AP)—Wondering whether the government's automatic budget cuts will slow down President Barack Obama's health care law?

Not happening, the administration says.

Health and Human Services spokeswoman Erin Shields Britt says consumers in every state will have access to coverage when open enrollment begins Oct 1. That's right on schedule.

Sequestration could hamper airline flights, food inspections, IRS assistance and deployments of Navy ships.

But Obama's [health care law](#)—a program Republicans have spent the last three years trying to kill—will roll out on time.

Only a small fraction of the \$1.6 trillion the law spends to cover the uninsured over the next decade is subject to the cuts.

That's —quote— galling, says Republican Rep. Joe Barton of Texas.

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