

# Brewer does it--AZ Legislature passes Medicaid expansion

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Jan Brewer's Navy  
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Gov. [Jan Brewer](#)'s months-long campaign to reinstate and extend [Medicaid](#) to 300,000 low-income and uninsured Arizonans finally succeeded in an early morning vote yesterday morning. Twenty-four House Republicans joined the entire Democratic caucus to pass her Medicaid initiative 33-27.

The Arizona Senate approved a similar bill last month. It passed the House version yesterday afternoon, sending the legislation to the Governor's desk for a signing that could come as soon as later today.

"Thanks to legislators of both parties who worked hard, fought for their values and put AZ citizens 1st this legislative session," Brewer tweeted yesterday morning.

Brewer had called for a special session after the House Appropriations Committee rejected the

bill among party lines earlier this week.

In a [press release](#) yesterday, Brewer reiterated the difficulty she and a broad coalition of business, medical, community organizations, and politicians from different viewpoints faced in getting the bill passed:

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***“ I know that this process was not easy or without political risk. By joining me in extending health coverage to hundreds of thousands of Arizonans, legislators of my own party have come under sharp criticism in some quarters. Some have had threats made not just against their political future, but also their personal livelihood. But I also know this in my heart: The great majority of Arizonans stand with us.***

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Last month, Reps. Brophée McGee (R-Phoenix) and Heather Carter (R-Cave Creek) received threats via email and phone message for their support of the Medicaid extension bill. Other legislators received emails that asked them to reverse their support, followed by a scripted message that offers a Second Amendment defense for shooting them.

Does this mean that the person who led the fight against Obamacare to the Supreme Court is about to convert? Hardly. “Medicaid was here long before Obama health care. I have never liked Obama health care,” *The New York Times* reports Brewer told reporters after the vote. “It has nothing to do with Obama health care.”

Arizona was the last state to offer Medicaid. It approved the program in 1982, 17 years after it was authorized by Congress.

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