Democrats Defect

On November 15, the U.S. House passed a GOP bill called the “Keep Your Health Plan Act.” Thirty-nine Democrats defected to vote yes. The day before the vote, President Obama tried to stem the expected defections. He offered an administrative fix that would let people keep their health plans but only through the 2014 election, and only if states and insurers agreed.

His fix would let health plans violate the law without sanctions, but at least 39 Democrats looking toward their own 2014 elections were not convinced to stick with Obama. How many more might agree to vote for an outright repeal of the law as things get worse?