

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO-08) has joined the first major legislative effort of the 112th Congress, a measure to entirely repeal the health care legislation passed into law two years ago.

"We need a fresh start, and that means repealing the health care law instead of attempting to untangle it while the administration continues to make new health care regulations that will force Americans out of their existing coverage, increase federal spending, cut Medicare and add bureaucratic inefficiencies to the American health care system," Emerson said. "Of course there are parts of the bill which weren't controversial, like covering pre-existing conditions, and those provisions ought to be reshaped in a new effort to lower costs and expand private coverage - two aims which were not objectives of the Obama-Pelosi-Reid bill."

Though the Senate is widely expected to ignore the bill Emerson supports, she says it remains necessary to replace the existing law written and passed solely by one political party with a law which reflects bipartisan agreement.

"Maybe the Senate won't take up this bill, but I think it is important to reach out and offer an alternative. It's important to take a step back from the law strong-armed through the 111th Congress by two liberal majorities and reconsider the parts written in tandem with special interests like the pharmaceutical industry," Emerson said. "The American people deserve a better legislative product than the law on the books, and it is not too late to give them one before the thousands of regulations the law requires make it even tougher to take back."

The health care repeal bill will be voted upon in the U.S. House of Representatives next week.