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Oklahoma Legislators Gambling On Health Care Decision

State officials in Oklahoma have done

little to comply with the new federal health care law. Instead they're gambling that a key provision will be struck down Thursday by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The move is calculated - albeit risky - for Oklahoma's GOP leaders. They cited fears of a federal takeover of health care in declining to set up a state-run health insurance exchange. Should the law be upheld and the state doesn't create its own exchange by November, the state would automatically be absorbed into the federal system. That's the very thing they're fiercely trying to avoid. However many GOP lawmakers believe the election of Mitt Romney as President this November could also lead to the law being reversed in 2013.

When lawmakers decided to study how the state could set up its own exchange, conservative activists were so relentless in their opposition that the Legislature ultimately decided to do nothing.

Associated Press