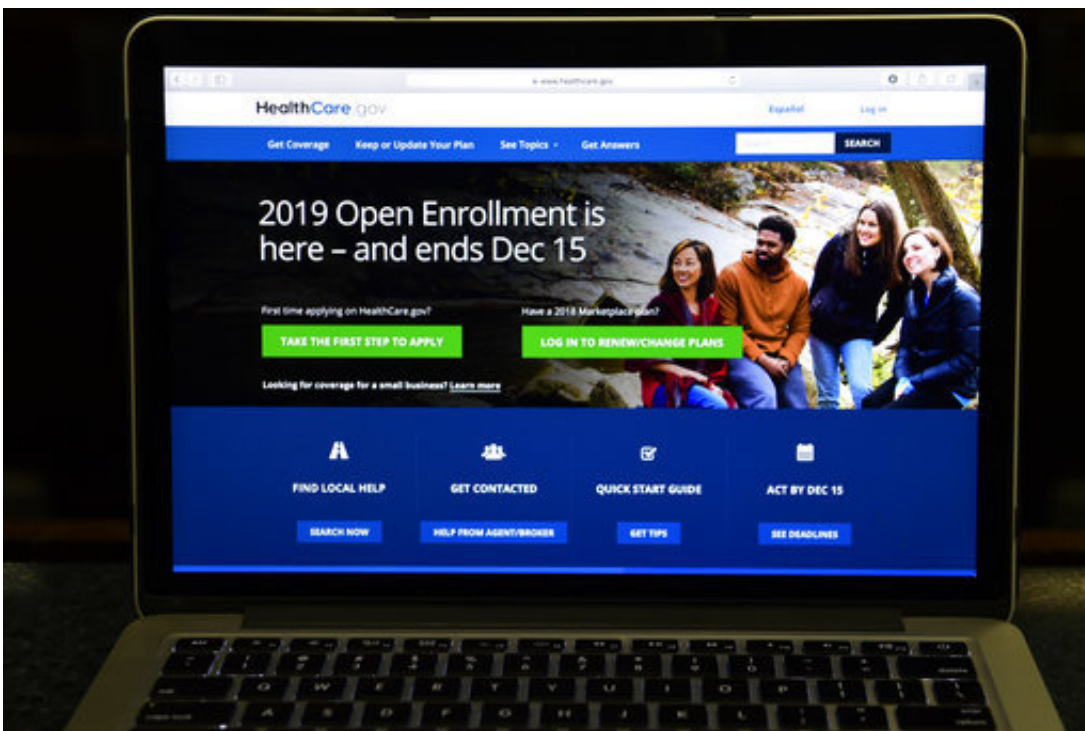


Health care sector roils after ACA court ruling

December 17 2018, by The Associated Press



In this Nov. 1, 2018, file photo, the federal website where consumers can sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act is shown on a computer screen in Washington. The health care sector is getting punished before the opening bell Monday, Dec. 17, after a federal judge in Texas ruled Friday that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional. (HealthCare.gov via AP, File)

The health care sector is getting punished before the opening bell after a federal judge in Texas ruled Friday that the Affordable Care Act is

unconstitutional.

Hospital chains HCA Inc. and Tenet Healthcare Corp. all dropped more than 5 percent before markets opened Monday, as did Centene Corp., a [health insurer](#) focused heavily on the government-funded Medicaid program and the ACA's individual insurance exchanges.

Other insurers that slipped included Molina Healthcare Inc. and Anthem Inc., companies that have benefited from either the insurance exchanges or the law's Medicaid expansion.

With uncertainly roiling sector shares, some sensed an opportunity and stepped in. Leerink analyst Ana Gupte expects the judge's contentious decision will be overturned either by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals next year or the Supreme Court in 2020.

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