

Reconciliation

I noticed #reconciliation appearing as a hashtag on tweets a couple of days ago. Given its centrality to the debate that has been going on about health care reform I decided to start collecting messages. It did not produce a flood: 1068 by 11:04 p.m. 3/2/2010. The Washington Post has now made it breaking news

News Alert: In health-care remarks, Obama embraces legislative tactic known as reconciliation
02:03 PM EST Wednesday, March 3, 2010

President Obama on Wednesday endorsed the controversial legislative tactic known as reconciliation, saying his health-care overhaul deserves the same treatment as other significant legislation that has passed Congress with "nothing more than a simple majority."

"Reform has already passed the House with a majority," Obama said. "It has already passed the Senate with a supermajority of sixty votes. And now it deserves the same kind of up-or-down vote that was cast on welfare reform, the Children's Health Insurance Program, COBRA health coverage for the unemployed, and both Bush tax cuts – all of which had to pass Congress with nothing more than a simple majority."

Under such an approach, the House would pass the health bill passed by the Senate in December. The House and the Senate would then use reconciliation to pass a set of fixes to the bill, to satisfy the demands of lawmakers in the House.

Using reconciliation rules, the fixes could not be filibustered and Senate Democrats could approve them with a simple majority vote -- a move intended to bypass a Republican caucus that remains united in its opposition to the legislation.

For more information, visit [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com):

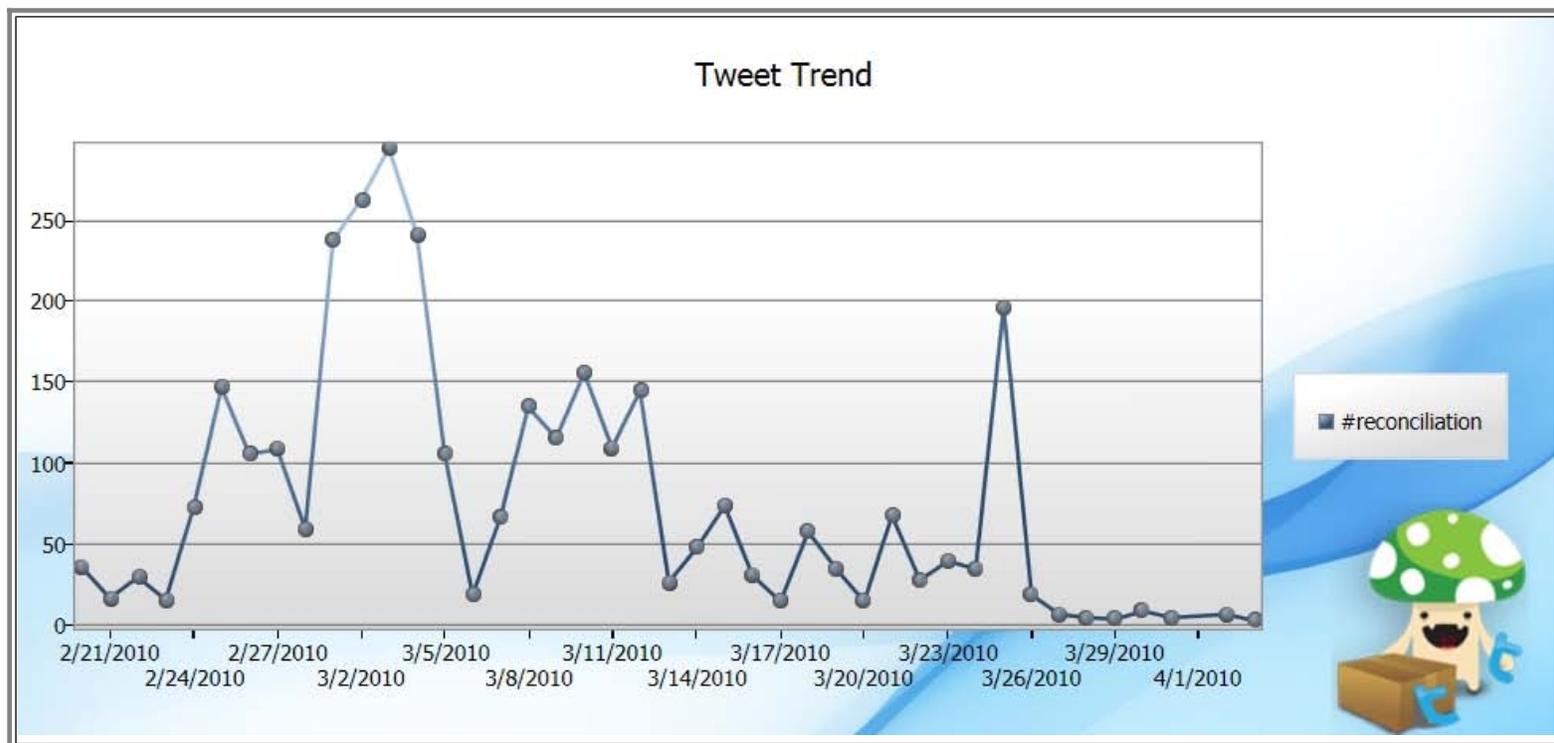
<http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/GWSCIY/TRBTQ/S1D756/243HNJ/U6W5M/28/t>

This is an unusually long explanation of what is breaking.

#reconciliation seemed obvious as a search term so that is what I used.

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The stream never took over. The figure shows that it was pretty volatile.



There are three surges -- though none is very large.

The search was closed April 3, 2010, and the total number of messages was 3132.

The data files are [reconciliation.xml](#) and [reconciliation.txt](#), which is a tab delimited file that can be read by Excel.

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