

MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties
From: Wes Anderson & Kayla Dunlap
Date: August 12, 2016
Re: Survey Findings

KEY FINDINGS

Below are the key findings from our recent national survey conducted for the American Action Forum that gauged voters' opinions on the general state of healthcare and the administration's Reinsurance Program. This survey of 1,000 likely voters nationwide with 100 likely voter oversamples in Colorado, Florida, Ohio, Nevada and New Hampshire was fielded July 5th through the 7th and was stratified by state for the national and county for each oversample, to reflect historic voter trends.

- Healthcare concerns are not top-of-mind headed into the election this fall. At 21%, voters continue to list "improving the economy" as the most important issue facing our country followed by "strengthening our military and improving national security" at 15%. Among Republicans, national defense outperforms the economy 26% to 21% respectively while defense drops to 4% among Democrats.
- The ACA (Obamacare) currently sits 6 points upside-down with 45% of voters favoring the health care law while 51% oppose it. This finding has remained largely unchanged for the last two years. More importantly, a full 43% say they are strongly opposed. This negative spread grows among Independents who oppose the law 35% to 61% respectively.
- Voters prefer private health insurance companies over the federal government when it comes to quality, affordability and coverage. Independents mimic the topline number, preferring private health insurers across the board.

Thinking about healthcare coverage in the United States, which of the following do you believe is better at providing....		
	Private Health Insurance Companies	The Federal Government
Quality healthcare coverage	57%	26%
Affordable healthcare coverage	48%	39%
The best coverage to people with the most serious health conditions, like cancer and HIV, which require significant medical treatments	49%	34%

- When voters were asked which of seven outcomes would be their biggest concern if there were fewer private insurers in the Obamacare exchanges, voters' top concern was the government stepping in to take over the system (21%) while concerns for higher premiums and lower quality care took 2nd place, tied at 14%.
- When asked if potential changes to the reinsurance program would be a hidden tax or a bailout, 40% of voters would call it a hidden tax on private health insurers while 30% say it amounts to an insurance bailout. 45% of Independents and even 28% of Democrats tend to agree with the hidden tax argument.
- 79% believe that if private health insurance companies are playing by the rules, the government must "act as a good business partner" and hold up their end of the deal.
- 67% believe it is unfair for Congress to change the rules after the fact and that insurance companies should not be penalized for following the rules.

- 68% believe that the Department of Health and Human Services should pay for their own mistakes by making up the difference out of their administrative funds rather than changing the rules which takes money away from the private sector.
- 61% of voters oppose a government run health care system, 50% of whom say they strongly oppose. Among Independents, opposition jumps to 69%.
- 51% believe that if the government continues to change the rules on private health insurance companies paying them less than agreed to and causing them to pull out of the Obamacare exchanges, the end result would be a government run health care system. Only 32% believe that premise is false.
- A majority (55%) say that by not reimbursing private health insurers for following the law, government is balancing its budget on the back of private businesses. Thirty-two percent disagree.
- By 55% to 31%, voters think it's critical that Congress continues to incentivize private health insurers to participate in the Obamacare exchanges because a lack of competition could cause premiums to skyrocket.

The bottom-line: A strong majority of voters believe the federal government must live up to its end of the bargain. The motivations behind that belief vary widely depending on a voter's partisanship or ideological disposition. For the majority of Republicans, this issue is a matter of fiscal responsibility. Most Republican voters would be unhappy to learn that members from their party are entertaining what they see as a hidden tax. For most Independents, this issue speaks directly to trust, and that's something Independents have very little of when it comes to all things Washington. For Democrats, it's a matter of fairness. Democrat voters are most concerned with how such a change could affect the healthcare of ordinary Americans. Any negative outcomes on that score would be seen as unfair.

METHODOLOGY

The following national survey was conducted by OnMessage Inc. Telephone interviews were conducted on July 5-7, 2016. This survey consists of 1000 likely voters nationwide with 100 likely voter oversamples in the Senate Battleground states of Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire, Colorado and Florida. This survey was stratified to reflect historic voter trends and margin of error is +/- 3.10%.

ABOUT US

Wes Anderson is a leading GOP pollster with 20 years of experience in opinion research. As a founding partner, Wes now leads the polling divisions of OnMessage Inc. and OnMessage Sports, providing political and corporate clients with a full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative opinion research products. You can read more about Wes Anderson at onmessageinc.com.