



MEMORANDUM

To: American Action Forum
From: OnMessage, Inc.
Date: March 8th, 2018
Re: National Survey Findings

The following survey consists of 1,100 voters stratified by state to reflect historic mid-term turnout. All interviews were conducted by OnMessage Inc. via phone with 35 percent completed over cell phone and 65 percent on land line. The margin of error for this survey is +/-2.95 at the 95th percentile. In addition, an oversample of 100 interviews were conducted in five senatorial battleground states: NV, AZ, WV, IN and MO.

BOTTOM LINE

- A majority of voters both nationally and in the Senate battleground states oppose the creation of a true single payer health care system. Opposition in both samples grows significantly when voters are told that single payer would result in the end of employer and union provided health care coverage.
- Congressional action to fund cost sharing reduction payments (CSRs) is favored by 58 percent to 33 percent.
- Congressional action to create a federal reinsurance program is favored by 57 percent to 33 percent.

KEY FINDINGS

The Health Insurance Industry

- While health insurers are not popular with respondents, far more voters believe private health insurance companies do a better job than the federal government in “providing quality health care coverage.”

“Thinking about health care coverage in the United States, which of the following do you believe is better at providing quality health care coverage?”

	National	Senate Battleground
Private Health Insurance Companies	49%	56%
The Federal Government	27%	23%
Both	7%	5%
Neither	9%	7%

- That advantage is much smaller when testing “affordable health care coverage.”

"Thinking about health care coverage in the United States, which of the following do you believe is better at providing affordable health care coverage?"

	National	Senate Battleground
Private Health Insurance Companies	42%	50%
The Federal Government	39%	35%
Both	5%	3%
Neither	7%	6%

- Respondents also believe private insurance is better than the federal government when it comes to providing coverage for people with "the most serious health conditions."

"Thinking again about health care coverage in the United States, which of the following do you believe provides the best coverage to people with the most serious health conditions, like cancer and HIV, which require significant medical treatments?"

	National	Senate Battleground
Private Health Insurance Companies	43%	45%
The Federal Government	33%	35%
Both	5%	3%
Neither	6%	5%

Cost Sharing Reduction Payments

- Fifty-eight percent of respondents favor Congress funding CSRs, while 33 percent oppose, and 9 percent are undecided.
- While support for funding CSRs drops in the Senate battleground, still a majority (50%) favor the proposal.
- As expected, there's a good deal of partisan polarization in this issue. Democrats overwhelmingly support reimbursement while a majority of Republicans do not.
- In addition to the party splits, age is a clear factor with voters under 55 more likely to support reimbursement than those over 55.

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	55 & Under	Over 55	Senate Battleground
Total Favor	58%	81%	52%	35%	61%	54%	50%
Strongly Favor	38%	60%	34%	15%	40%	34%	33%
Somewhat Favor	20%	21%	19%	20%	21%	20%	17%
Total Oppose	33%	14%	39%	50%	32%	35%	37%
Strongly Oppose	21%	9%	24%	33%	19%	23%	26%
Somewhat Oppose	12%	5%	15%	18%	13%	22%	11%

Single Payer

- Initial respondent reaction to single payer health care is 41 percent favor, 51 percent oppose, 8 percent undecided.
- Opposition is highest among Republicans at 78 percent, but 55 percent of Independents and 24 percent of Democrats also oppose single payer.
- In addition, a majority (54 percent) of suburban women oppose single payer. That's a critical block of voters as they have proven to be the true swing voters in all health care debates over the last decade.
- In our battleground sample, single payer stands at 37 percent favor, 53 percent oppose, 9 percent undecided.

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Senate Battleground
Total Favor	41%	66%	39%	15%	37%
Strongly Favor	28%	50%	23%	7%	25%
Somewhat Favor	13%	16%	16%	8%	12%
Total Oppose	51%	24%	55%	78%	53%
Strongly Oppose	43%	17%	45%	72%	35%
Somewhat Oppose	8%	7%	10%	6%	18%

When provided with additional information, including the impact on the legality of employer and union coverage and the collapse of the Vermont single payer effort, Republicans, Independents and Democrats were more likely to oppose single payer.

CONCLUSION

Health care remains a charged and polarizing issue, but some of the steam has come off the boiler. This survey can't tell us if that's due to the rise of other national issues or simply a better economy.

The federal government is the least trusted player in the health care space. That remains true even with regard to affordability and coverage for the seriously and chronically ill.

As counterintuitive as it may sound, this study suggests that given the quick and steady rise of premiums over the last eight years, premium stabilization is as powerful as premium reduction with regard to communicating policy. Voters are more likely to believe that this policy will stabilize premiums rather than reduce them.

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.