

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: GLEN BOLGER, JARRETT LEWIS, & TORIE BOLGER, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
CC: AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY
DATE: MARCH 7, 2023
SUBJECT: KEY FINDINGS – HEALTHCARE NATIONAL SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national online survey of 1,000 Registered Voters, February 9-13, 2023. Results from the survey have a credibility interval of ± 3.53 percentage points.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Americans believe our healthcare system is broken.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of voters believe the U.S. healthcare system is in a state of crisis or has major problems. Solid majorities of Republicans (66%), Independents (74%), and Democrats (79%) all agree the healthcare system is struggling. Voters describe the health care system as “*expensive and overpriced*,” “*inaccessible*,” and “*broken*.”

Building on that, a majority of voters (56%) say they feel “helpless and believe they have almost no say in anything” when it comes to dealing with the healthcare system. There is a clear gap in public opinion between who voters think has control versus who should have the most control of decisions affecting healthcare coverage. Fully 68% of the voters say “me and my family” should have the most control, but only 13% say they actually do have control over their healthcare decisions.

Voters are growing more and more frustrated with the U.S. healthcare system. Some four-in-ten voters say the healthcare system isn’t working for them. The 40% threshold is critical, as it has usually preceded big attempts at changing the system, e.g. Obamacare and Hillarycare. Congressional Republicans need to begin paying attention to the issue because the Democrats have telegraphed it to be front and center in their campaigns. Additionally, 65% of voters say the healthcare system is NOT meeting the needs of most Americans either.

2. Voters agree there should NOT be MORE government control and that changes to the healthcare system should focus on strengthening private sector competition.

Only one-third of voters say there should be MORE government control of our healthcare system. Conversely, a plurality of voters (43%) say there should be LESS government control, including a majority (51%) of Independent voters. Altogether, fully 67% of voters believe there should be LESS government control, or government control should stay as it is now. Voters view health care as a personal decision, and they want to be in charge of making their own decisions (86%), they do not want the government and insurance companies to control the process (14%).

When asked about changes to the U.S. healthcare system, voters clearly favor strengthening private sector competition over increasing government control and subsidies. Six-in-ten voters prefer the private sector route, including majorities of suburban voters (62%), Independents (61%), women (60%), and moderates (59%).

3. Outside of inflation and gas prices, lowering healthcare costs is at the forefront of voters' minds.

Respondents were asked which issues would be most beneficial to them personally to address. Reducing inflation and gas prices (70%) and lowering healthcare costs (41%) are at the top of the combined issue agenda (of 8 total items tested). There is bipartisan agreement on this as well.

Making healthcare more of a priority is a popular decision for Republicans. More than 60% of voters say they would feel better about Republicans if they made an effort to improve the system. Lowering healthcare costs is important to voters, and Republicans have the opportunity to capitalize on that.

4. Voters continue to support The Personal Option over Medicare for All and the Public Option.

Survey respondents were shown the following proposals and asked to choose between The Personal Option and Medicare for All and between The Personal Option and the Public Option. The Personal Option stacks up against both, but more so against Medicare for All:

"A 'Personal Option' plan in which the government allows for more choices, like tax-free Health Savings Accounts and short-term renewable plans, that let people select affordable options that are right for them, without adding new taxes."

"A 'Public Option' plan in which the government offers all Americans the option to purchase a public health insurance plan like Medicare, with subsidies for low-income Americans."

"A 'Medicare for All' plan that would end private health insurance coverage and move every American into a government-run health insurance plan."

Voters support the Personal Option over the Public Option by 61%-39%, a 22 point gap and support the personal option over Medicare for All by a 66%-34% margin, an even more dominant 32 point gap.

- ✓ % Supporting The Personal Option Over The Public Option: Majorities of Republicans (76%), Independents (69%), suburban voters (65%), moderates (62%), and women (62%).
- ✓ % Supporting The Personal Option Over Medicare For All: Majorities of Republicans (81%), Independents (75%), suburban voters (68%), women (67%), and moderates (67%).

BOTTOM LINE

Voters are clear in their beliefs: The U.S. healthcare system is broken. It is convoluted, expensive, and does not meet the needs of most Americans. More than 70% of voters say the health care system is in a state of crisis or has major problems. Considering cost pressures on the industry, it is only a matter of time before these frustrations drive calls for change. Lowering healthcare costs is in the top two issue agenda with Americans. Republicans cannot afford to ignore the issue, and they have an opportunity to work on behalf of Americans to make healthcare more personalized and more affordable.

Voters continue to support The Personal Option. They support The Personal Option over the Public Option by 22 points and they support The Personal Option over Medicare for All by 32 points. The opportunity to put forth The Personal Option is ripe and will resonate with voters.