

New Survey Shows Voters Are Struggling with Inflation, Negatively Impacted by High Health Care Costs, and Supportive of Policies that Expand Affordable Health Coverage

July 11, 2022 – A new survey sponsored by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) finds many voters are tired of “just getting by” and worried about inflation and rising costs, including health care costs. Half of voters say they are putting off medical care or making other sacrifices to avoid incurring health care costs and 49% have current or past medical debt.

Voters are looking for relief from health care costs and there is bipartisan support for government action. Specifically, they want government to prioritize making health care more affordable and protecting people’s access to health coverage during this period of high inflation. This includes efforts to make health coverage on the Marketplace / Obamacare more affordable, including making the increased premium tax credits passed during the pandemic into a permanent policy. There is also strong bipartisan support for Congress passing a law that expands Medicaid and puts health coverage in reach for people living in the 12 states that have not expanded the program.

The national survey of 2,001 registered voters was conducted May 24 – June 8, 2022 by a bipartisan team of researchers from PerryUndem, Bellwether Research, and the Center for Advancing Innovative Policy (CAIP).¹

7 Key Findings

1. **Nearly 9 in 10 voters (87%) say they have been worrying about inflation and paying for food, gas, and other basic needs during the last six months.** A similar proportion (85%) has been worrying about the economy and a possible recession. 4 in 10 (39%) voters feel they are just “getting by” right now, “not thriving.”
2. **They are negatively affected by high health care costs.** Half of voters (53%) say they are putting off medical care or making other sacrifices to avoid incurring costs and 49% have current or past medical debt. Many (38%) with medical debt say it has made it more difficult

¹ This was a 22-minute national survey of 2,001 registered voters conducted online with YouGov. It was offered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for total results is ± 3.0 percentage points.

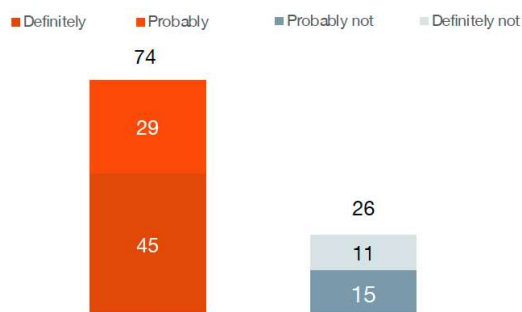
to move forward financially. Of note, 43% of all voters say they are worried about going into debt because of medical bills in the next 12 months.

3. **They want the government to prioritize making health care more affordable.** More than 8 in 10 voters (81%) feel this way (Dem 95%, Ind 73%, and Rep 69%).

4. **Most (81%) agree government should protect people so they don't lose their health insurance during this time of high inflation.**

Majorities across party ID share this view (Dem 96%, Ind 74%, Rep 64%). Most (74%) see it as the role of government to help people keep their health coverage or afford new insurance during a crisis like the pandemic or an economic recession.

Q: Do you think it is the role of the government to help people keep their health insurance or afford new health insurance, especially during a crisis like a pandemic or economic recession?



5. **Voters approve of laws Congress passed during the pandemic that helped people keep and afford health coverage.** Specifically, three-quarters (74%) approve of the federal government increasing tax credits through the Marketplace that enabled people to keep their insurance or buy new insurance during the pandemic (Dem 92%, Ind 67%, Rep 57%).

6. **Nearly 8 in 10 (78%) agree the government should do whatever it can to make health coverage on the Marketplace more affordable.** Majorities of Democratic (96%), Independent (70%), and Republican (60%) voters agree with this idea. This is likely why two-thirds (68%) support making the increased tax credits on the Marketplace which passed during the pandemic into a permanent policy. There are some differences based on party ID, with Democrat (94%) and Independent (58%) voters most supportive of making this into a permanent policy, and Republican (43%) voters less so. Of note, voters say they are twice as likely to vote for a candidate who supports making the increased tax credits on the Marketplace permanent (more likely to vote for 51% vs. less likely to vote for 26%).

Q: There is a proposal to make the financial help the government offered during the pandemic into a permanent policy. This means that the tax credits that people were able to get through the Marketplace / Obamacare during the pandemic would remain available. Do you support or oppose making the increased tax credits permanent?



7. **Three-quarters of voters (76%) also support Congress passing a law so that millions of people living in 12 states that did not expand Medicaid can qualify for affordable health coverage.** This is a policy that has bipartisan support, with 95% of Democrats, 69% of Independents, and 61% of Republicans supporting this idea.

Q: Here is another policy idea. Recently, some elected officials have suggested passing a law so that millions of people in 12 states (AL, FL, GA, KS, MS, NC, SC, SD, TN, TX, WI and WY) can qualify for Medicaid health coverage. These 12 states are the only states in the U.S. that have not expanded Medicaid yet, making it nearly impossible for uninsured people with low incomes to get health coverage.

Do you support or oppose passing a law that would fix this problem and allow low-income, uninsured people in these 12 states to be able to qualify for Medicaid?



For more information about this survey, please contact Mike Perry at mike@perryundem.com.