

public of health New Poll Shows Tremendous Support for Public Health Care Option

Posted by - 2009/09/09 04:13

read it and weep rightards. Get used to it, you're going to lose this one too. New Poll Shows Tremendous Support for Public Health Care Option Bernie Horn's picture By Bernie Horn June 15, 2009 - 12:24pm ET Facebook E-mail Popular This Week Sticky Fingers: The Super Rich Set a New Greed Grab Record by Sam Pizzigati August 16, 2009

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Eighty-three percent of Americans favor and only 14 percent oppose “creating a new public health insurance plan that anyone can purchase” according to EBRI, a conservative business research organization. This flatly contradicts conservatives’ loudest attack against President Obama’s plan to provide quality, affordable health care for all. The Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) calls itself “the most authoritative and objective source of information” on the issues of employee retirement and health benefits. Founded in 1978, EBRI says it “is the gold standard for private analysts and decision makers, government policymakers, the media, and the public.” And EBRI is funded by many of the largest corporations in America. EBRI’s biggest donors include: AT&T, Bank of America, Boeing, General Dynamics, General Mills, IBM, JBMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Northop Grumman, Schering-Plough, Schwab, T.Rowe Price, UBS Financial, and Wal-Mart. EBRI also receives large contributions from the insurance industry, including: Blue Cross Blue Shield, CIGNA, Hartford, Kaiser Permanente, Massachusetts Mutual, Metropolitan Life, Union Labor Life, and UnitedHealth. Here’s who paid for the poll, as stated by EBRI: This survey was made possible with support from

AARP, American Express, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Buck Consultants, Chevron, Deere & Company, IBM, Mercer, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Principal Financial Group, Schering-Plough Corp., Shell Oil Company, The Commonwealth Fund, and Towers Perrin. So clearly, no one can accuse this organization of being “liberal” on health care issues. These findings are from EBRI’s 2009 Health Confidence Survey, their 12th annual poll:

Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the following: Creating a new public health insurance plan that anyone can purchase:

- Strongly support—53 percent
- Somewhat support—30 percent
- Somewhat oppose—5 percent
- Strongly oppose—9 percent

Having national rules requiring insurance companies to cover all people, regardless of their health problems:

- Strongly support—55 percent
- Somewhat support—25 percent
- Somewhat oppose—9 percent
- Strongly oppose—9 percent

Expanding government programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid:

- Strongly support—45 percent
- Somewhat support—30 percent
- Somewhat oppose—9 percent
- Strongly oppose—12 percent

Requiring all employers to pay toward subsidized health insurance for employees:

- Strongly support—42 percent
- Somewhat support—33 percent
- Somewhat oppose—10 percent
- Strongly oppose—12 percent

Requiring everyone to participate in some kind of health insurance plan:

- Strongly support—38 percent
- Somewhat support—30 percent
- Somewhat oppose—13 percent
- Strongly oppose—16 percent

Despite clear public support for these provisions—all of which are likely to be in the Democrats’ health care reform legislation—conservatives won’t go along. The biggest battle right now is over the public plan option. As commentator Al Hunt points out: Although almost half of Americans are already covered by a public health plan, inclusion of a government option is a deal-killer for most Republicans and Democrats...

The Congressional Progressive Caucus says it is a deal-killer if the public option is left out of the health care reform legislation. Get ready for a titanic tug of war. There was another new health care poll in the news today, this one by Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg. Although the specifics aren’t yet released, he talks about his polling in the New Republic. I point it out because it echoes two important points I made last week in a somewhat controversial post called “Why Not Single-Payer?”

I said “About 3/4ths of insured Americans are satisfied with their health insurance.” Greenberg says: “Yet three-quarters are satisfied with their own health insurance.” I said “When Americans hear about a health care proposal, they immediately think “how is it going to affect me and my family.” That’s their overarching, overwhelming concern.”

Greenberg says when Clinton proposed his plan, “people responded personally, working to figure out what it all meant for them—the impact on their family, access to their doctors, dollars and cents, and on everything they’d done to become satisfied with their health care.” Some readers commented that they simply didn’t believe the polling I cited in Why Not Single-Payer? It is natural for all of us—myself included—to seek out polls that support our side and disregard contrary polling results. But please understand that President Obama and progressive health care advocates have access to so much polling on this issue; they are not picking-and-choosing the polls they like. They are making clear-headed decisions in an effort to get the very best health care plan that can possibly be enacted by Congress this year. The writer is a Senior Fellow at Campaign for America’s Future and author of the book, “Framing the Future: How Progressive Values Can Win Elections and Influence People”.

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Posted by Herbert Cannon - 2009/09/09 04:13

one too. Um Hal you did note it said purchase. So how is that going to help those that you statistis keep crying over that have no health care now? According to you, these poor souls are unable to purchase health care? You statistis must have some victims to advance your cause. You just eliminated them.

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<http://www.fivethirtyeight.com/2009/06/public-support-for-public-opti...>

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Posted by Shuurai - 2009/09/09 04:13

read it and weep rightards. Get used to it, you're going to lose this one too. New Poll Shows Tremendous Support for Public Health Care Option Bernie Horn's picture Plenty of people support the idea of creating an option that everybody can purchase; hell, I support that too. What I (and most conservatives, moderates, and other rational people) do not support is the specific plan being offered right now by the ultra-left including Obama. Notice that the poll you are citing is very generic; it is asking if people support an option in general. Every single poll across the country that asks about the SPECIFIC plan currently being thrown around Congress is showing the exact opposite results; a majority of people are against what Obama is proposing. There are a number of reasons for this. First and foremost, it will simply cost too much. The CBO has already determined that even if everything goes exactly as planned, the absolute best we can hope for with Obamacare is to maintain the status quo in terms of spending. The fact that the American people want SOMETHING does not give Obama or the ultra-libs license to pass the first turd they come up with. The people want something better; something that will actually work in the long term and not completely disrupt the industry.

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Posted by TravlsGod - 2009/09/09 04:13

read it and weep rightards. Get used to it, you're going to lose this one too. New Poll Shows Tremendous Support for Public Health Care Option Bernie Horn's picture LOL...people SUPPORT health care reform, you moron. They do NOT support the ludicrous insanity of O'bamma and what you idiot progressives want to foist onto everybody. You progressives are so insane that you think that YOUR version of reform for any issue is THE ONLY reform possible. Everything else is WRONG, only the progressives' insane version of change has any validity. People disagree with you wackjobs and thank god for that. Trav

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You progressives are so insane that you think that YOUR version of reform for any issue is THE ONLY reform possible. Everything else is WRONG, only the progressives' insane version of change has any validity. People disagree with you wackjobs and thank god for that. The Obamacrats love to use the false dichotomy. When the Obamassiah was making speeches about the stimulus package, he presented the options as being pass his ridiculously enormous package, or do nothing. Those were (according to Obama and his flock of drooling sycophants) the ONLY two options. No other options existed; it was all or nothing, not even a discussion. Same for health care. The ONLY two options, according to Obama, is that we pass something ridiculously huge, or do nothing. There is no middle ground. There is not even a discussion about the possibility of a middle ground. He claims that NOBODY has offered any other alternatives when in fact over a dozen alternative plans have been offered from republicans, from moderate democrats, and even from private industry; all of them ignored. And before anyone start babbling about how they might not press for the public option, mark my words - whatever option they press for after the break will be a public option in disguise. Their eventual goal - one that has been stated publicly - is to force the entire system into single payer. Whether we The People want it or not. You are either for Obamacare, or you are against ANY reform whatsoever. Those are the only two options. Further, if you are not for Obamacare, it is because you are a racist. Or because you hate poor people. Or because you're greedy. Or because you've been duped by some republican conspiracy movement. It couldn't possibly be for any legitimate reason; there could not possibly BE a reason to be against anything the progressives come up with. It's exactly this type of arrogant elitism that is pissing people off.

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Posted by Rabid Weasel Lawson - 2009/09/09 04:13

New Poll Shows Tremendous Support for Public Health Care Option Well, duh. What the poll actually shows is that there's tremendous support for not simply letting people die or go untreated. Another big DUH. No one wants grandma to be left to die from a easily treated ailment. DUH again. What the public is specifically, and overwhelmingly, against is the Obama/Liberal plan being pimped now. Don't you get this? (IH)

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Posted by Demon Buddha - 2009/09/09 04:13

The people want something better; something that will actually work in the long term and not completely disrupt the industry. I note that in the 50s and 60s people could generally afford health care without insurance. The salient question is what changed? When that is answered, we will have a basis for a viable solution. Until then, we will stay screwed.

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It's exactly this type of arrogant elitism that is pissing people off. Enough to show up at rallies with ARs strapped to their backs. And of course those people are reactionary loons, yet when similarly extreme actions are taken by the left, those people are concerned citizens. We are at a nexus and the time is upon us to choose sides. What I fear is a shooting war between the opinions. I support that as a last resort, but we are not there yet. The people of the USA could put a stop to this shit right now, today. The problem is that so many are caught up in the non-issues like healthcare. These are strawmen and they are doing their jobs very well. Those at the top of the pyramid, I fear, will sit back laughing themselves till they choke as the rest kill each other. In the end, they will march in with little to no effective resistance. Those puppies are smart and they are playing for keeps. They are NOT our friends and the faster the dummies catch on tho this the better we may fare in the end. As it stands, I see us as being wholly and irretrievably fucked. Our very lives are at stake here and so many people just do not see it. As Brain once said to Pinky, people believe what they want to believe. Scary shit.

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You are either for Obamacare, or you are against ANY reform whatsoever. Those are the only two options.

What is alarming about this is the number of people who fall for it. Every time. Roughly the same number of people who fell for Obama. Coincidence? The numbers supporting his policies - and him - are falling. And they're going to keep falling. Obama will be to democrats what Bush was to republicans.

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