



TO: Jamie Court

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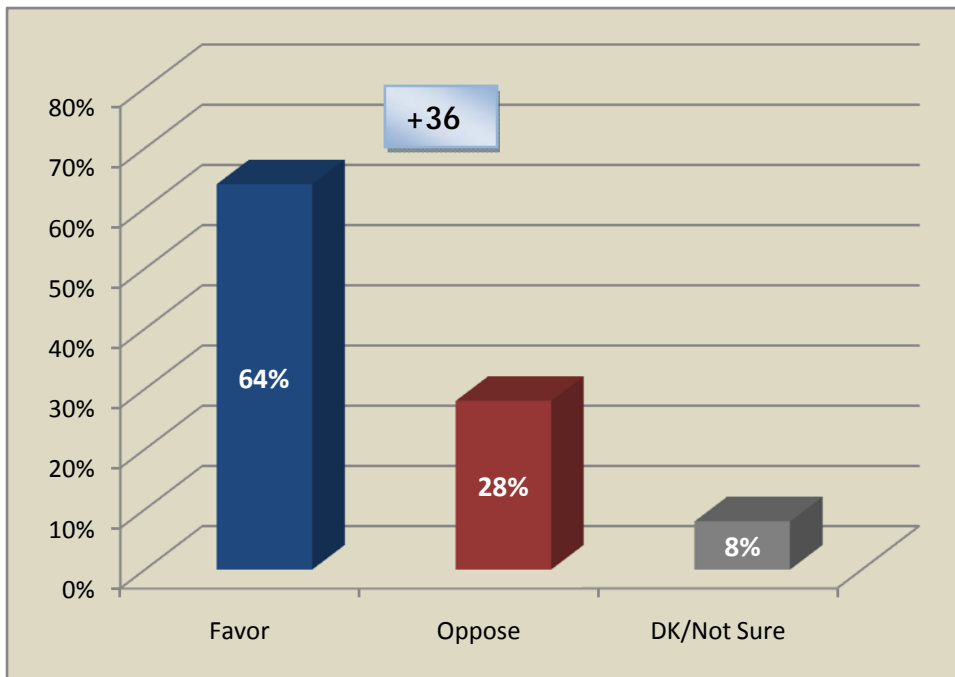
RE: Findings from a Recent Survey Show Widespread Support for a Public Health Care Option

DATE: January 30, 2009

This analysis is based on 863 interviews among registered voters in the United States. The survey was conducted January 23-26, 2009 as part of a weekly national omnibus survey conducted by Caravan. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

Six in 10 Americans Favor Medicare Expansion to Provide a Public Health Plan Option

Proposals to expand Medicare to all Americans as an alternative to private insurance are

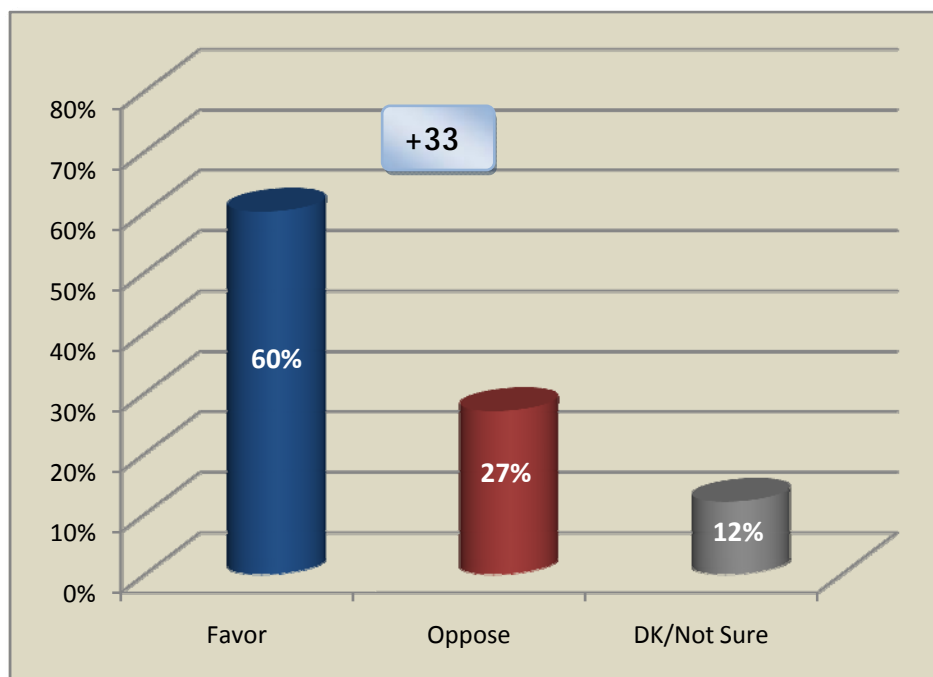


met with widespread approval by voters nationwide. More than six in 10 (64%) support federal legislation to create this public health plan option.

Federal leaders are considering expanding Medicare to all Americans, so that people have another option besides private health insurance or an HMO. Do you favor or oppose the creation of this type of public health plan option?

Support Is Sustained When the Details Are Provided, Including the Financing Mechanism

Expanding Medicare to include any American – regardless of age – who is interested in this type of coverage and willing to pay through increased Medicare payroll deductions, is something that receives support from 60% of Americans.



There is proposed federal legislation that gives any American, regardless of age, the option of joining the Medicare program. Americans who choose this option would share the cost of the coverage with their employer through increased Medicare payroll deductions, instead of paying private health insurance premiums. Do you favor or oppose this legislation?

There are no statistically meaningful

differences based on region or gender, and majorities of every major demographic subgroup support legislation to create a public health care option through Medicare. While support is greater with those under the retirement age, even older Americans currently eligible for Medicare (55%) support this move.

The Government Players Are More Popular Than Private Insurers

This is due, in part, to the fact that both the federal Medicaid (44% favorable, 15% unfavorable) and Medicare (41% favorable, 20% unfavorable) programs are held in fairly high esteem. Conversely, insurance companies (29% favorable, 38% unfavorable) and HMO's (36% favorable, 32% unfavorable) are not terribly popular right now.

The Tide Appears to Be Shifting in Favor of National Health Insurance

When given a choice of the current system or one "like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers," voters overwhelmingly chose the latter. A solid majority (59%) say they would prefer a national health insurance program that covers

everyone, over the current system of private insurance offered to most through their employer.

Indeed, Americans seem willing to pay more in taxes to achieve this. When asked views of a national health insurance program for all Americans, “even if this would require higher taxes,” a majority (55%) say they would be inclined to do so. While opposition (40%) is higher when taxes are added to the mix, there is still a double-digit preference for national health care even if it requires a tax hike.

More About the Methodology

This report presents the findings of a telephone survey conducted among a national probability sample of 1,001 adults comprising 500 men and 501 women 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. Interviewing for this CARAVAN® Survey was completed during the period January 23-26, 2009. Respondents were then screened to be registered voters, creating a sample size of 863.

The most advanced probability sampling techniques are employed in the selection of households for telephone interviewing. Opinion Research Corporation utilizes an unrestricted random sampling procedure that controls the amount of serial bias found in systematic sampling to generate its random-digit-dial sample. The sample is fully replicated and stratified by region. Only one interview is conducted per household. All sample numbers selected are subject to up to four attempts to complete an interview.

Completed interviews are weighted by four variables: age, sex, geographic region, and race, to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total population, 18 years of age and older. The raw data are weighted by a custom designed program which automatically develops a weighting factor for each respondent. Each respondent is assigned a single weight derived from the relationship between the actual proportion of the population with its specific combination of age, sex, geographic characteristics and race and the proportion in our CARAVAN sample that week.