



National Survey Reveals Americans Would Vote for a Change in Health Care, Support Tobacco Sales Ban and 0.0 BAC While Driving

Houston – September 12, 2018 – A nationwide survey from the largest medical center in the world revealed surprising results about Americans’ views on hot button topics such as Medicaid expansion, health care costs, tobacco and alcohol laws and how health care will figure into the 2020 Presidential Election.

Notably, 61 percent of those surveyed say they will only vote for a candidate who plans to fix the health care system. Almost two-thirds of Democrats and more than a third of Republicans and Independents who currently plan to vote for President Trump say it's likely his actions on health care may ultimately prevent them from voting for him.

[“The Nation’s Pulse: The Texas Medical Center’s Consumer Survey”](#) queried about 5,000 consumers across all 50 states – 1,018 in Texas and 4,020 in the other 49 states – about a broad range of issues. The survey, conducted by national firm Luminas, found that Medicaid expansion has wide bipartisan appeal. In the 34 expansion states, 76 percent support continuing coverage for low-income adults. In non-expansion states, 64 percent support expanding Medicaid to cover more people. In both expansion and non-expansion states, more than half of Republicans and over four in five Democrats say they will vote for a candidate who supports Medicaid expansion or continuation.

“It’s compelling that Republicans, Independents and Democrats support Medicaid expansion,” said Dr. Arthur ‘Tim’ Garson, Jr., director of the [Texas Medical Center Health Policy Institute](#). “This will certainly play a role in upcoming elections with nearly two-thirds of respondents saying they will vote for a candidate who makes fixing health care a priority. In addition to Medicaid expansion, more than half of Americans support Medicare for all or an affordable catastrophic health plan for all.”

Improving Americans’ health

Nearly half of Americans support lowering the legal blood alcohol limit while driving to 0.0 percent. An overwhelming 82 percent of respondents support prohibiting the sale of all tobacco products to people under 21 years of age, and 52 percent support banning the sale of tobacco products all together.

Additionally, more than half of those questioned support a ‘fat tax’ that would make unhealthy foods more expensive, and seven out of 10 Americans support food menu labeling to help consumers make healthier choices.

2020 Presidential Election insights

Nationally, 38 percent of respondents plan to vote for the reelection of President Trump in 2020. Addressing the question of whether some Americans are set in voting for the president ‘no matter what,’ the survey asked participants how President Trump’s actions in health care will affect how they plan to vote in the 2020 Presidential Election; more than two-thirds of Democrats and about one-third of Republicans and Independents say that how the president acts with health care would keep them from voting for him.

In terms of what health care moves might be unpopular enough to move their votes, the survey asked about previously proposed changes to Medicaid. Only 18 percent of Americans are in favor of limiting the amount paid per person (e.g. a block grant), and only 10 percent are in favor of excluding poor adults.

Reducing health care costs

Consumers report reducing costs as their top health care priority, with 63 percent responding that they do not pay costly medical bills in full upon receipt. Additionally, while most Americans want to discuss the cost of medical care with their doctor, less than 30 percent do.

"Americans are trying to reduce the cost of health care; we physicians need to help them do just that," Garson said.

For more details on the survey please visit <http://www.tmcnationspulse.org/>.

About Texas Medical Center

The largest medical complex in the world, the Texas Medical Center is internationally recognized and home to many of the nation’s best hospitals, physicians, educational institutions, researchers, and the largest concentration of life-sciences experts. TMC’s vision of collaborative research is being brought to life through five institutes that build on TMC’s strengths in Genomics, Regenerative Medicine, Innovation, Clinical Research and Health Policy. Learn more at www.tmc.edu.

About the TMC Health Policy Institute

The TMC Health Policy Institute was established to inform, define and lead health policy, ultimately developing the most effective solutions to improve the health of diverse populations around the globe. Utilizing expertise across the Texas Medical Center’s member institutions, the TMC Health Policy Institute addresses fundamental health policy issues important to Houston, the state and the nation. Learn more at www.tmc.edu/health-policy/.

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