

Older Voters Voice Strong Opposition to Proposed Health Care Reforms

Group Most Likely To Vote in 2010 Elections Rejects Every Key Element of Administration Reforms According to Resurgent Republic Survey

Washington, D.C. (December 11, 2009) – Passage of health care reform legislation would pose a serious risk to Democratic majorities in the House and Senate according to a new survey released today by Resurgent Republic. The non-profit conservative organization surveyed voters aged 55 and older and found they opposed health care reform being debated by Congress (48 percent opposed versus 39 percent in support).

“With their health care reform proposals, Democrats in Congress are digging an enormous political hole with voters 55-and-older, the demographic group that plays an outsized role in mid-term elections,” said Ed Gillespie, Co-Founder of Resurgent Republic. “They think health care reform will raise their taxes, increase the deficit, raise their premiums, cause their health care costs to go up, and cause the quality of the health care they receive to go down. Simply put, these voters reject every central argument made by Democrats in support of their legislation.”

“Voters age 55 and older rejected every key element of the Obama Administration’s arguments for their reform effort,” said Whit Ayres, Co-Founder of Resurgent Republic, specifically concluding that “that enactment of health care reform now being debated in Congress would increase rather than decrease their health care costs (61-14 percent), insurance and Medicare premiums (61-13 percent), the federal deficit (68-7 percent) and taxes (76-3 percent), and would decrease rather than increase the quality of their health care (41-22 percent).”

Independent voters sided more with Republican respondents than with Democrats on each of these perceptions, believing that health care reform would increase their health care costs by a margin of 66-12 percent, insurance and Medicare premiums by 67-10 percent, the federal deficit by 77-5 percent and taxes by 80-2 percent. In addition, Independents believed passage of the Democrats’ health care reform legislation would decrease the quality of their health care by a three-to-one margin, 48-16 percent.

In addition, voters 55-and-older overwhelmingly side with the argument “abortion should not be allowed in a government-run health insurance plan, and abortions should not be covered by an insurance plan that receives federal subsidies, because it means taxpayers who object to abortion are forced to subsidize abortion” (58 percent) over those who agree with the argument “abortion should be allowed in a government-run health insurance plan, and abortion should be covered in federally-subsidized plans if patients pay for it themselves, because if abortion is legal it should be covered under government health plans” (34 percent).

“Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid seem to have concluded that failing to pass health care reform legislation will hurt them more at the polls than passing it—that they’re less ‘damned if they do’ than ‘damned if they don’t.’ Today’s poll is strong evidence that they’re wrong,” Gillespie said.

To read the focus group memo and complete findings, please visit www.resurgentrepublic.com.

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