

**Chartpack**

***Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: January 2010***

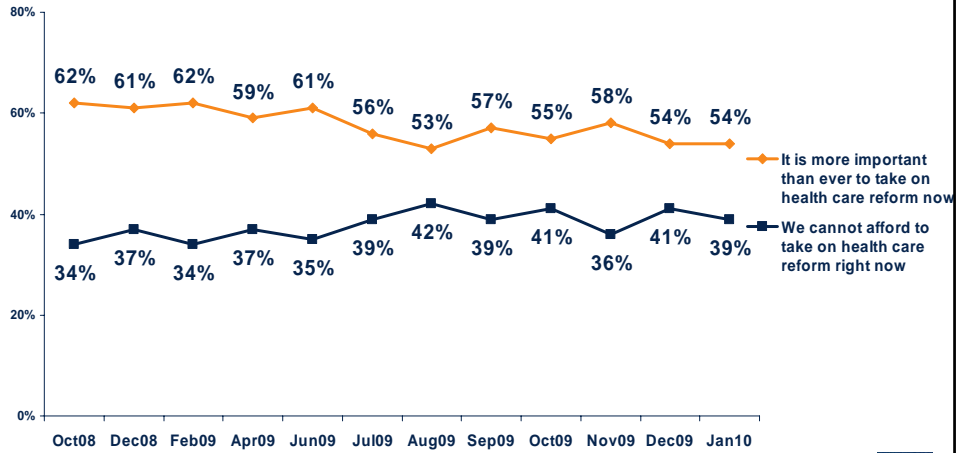
**January 2010**

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CHART 1

## Health Care Reform... Is Now the Right Time?

Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country...



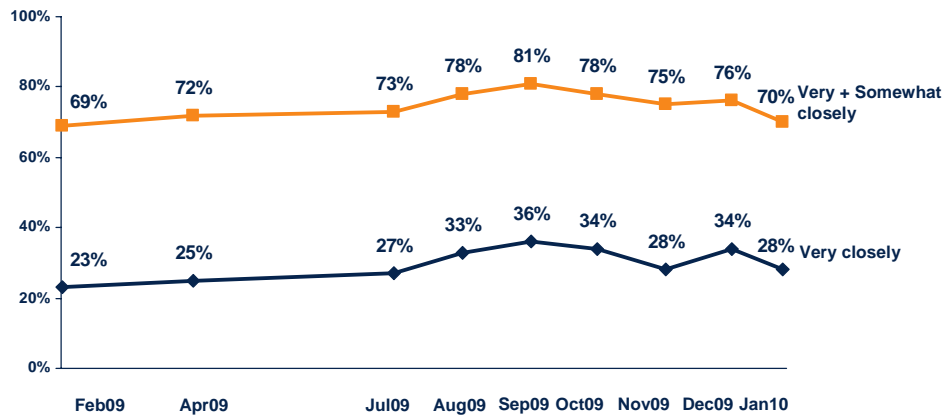
Note: Asked of half sample in Nov09 and Jan10. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.  
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation polls



CHART 2

## Public Attention

How closely have you been following discussions in Washington about health care reform?



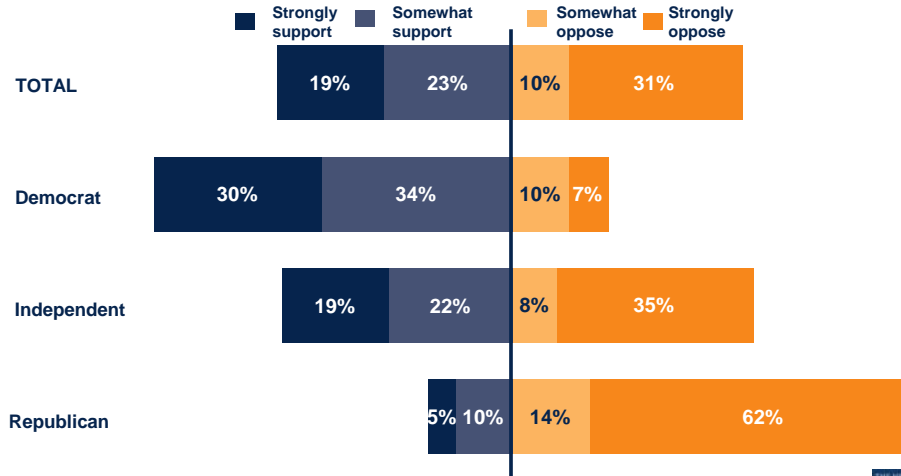
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking polls



CHART 3

## Support/Opposition for Current Reform Proposals

As of right now, do you generally support or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress? Is that strongly or somewhat?



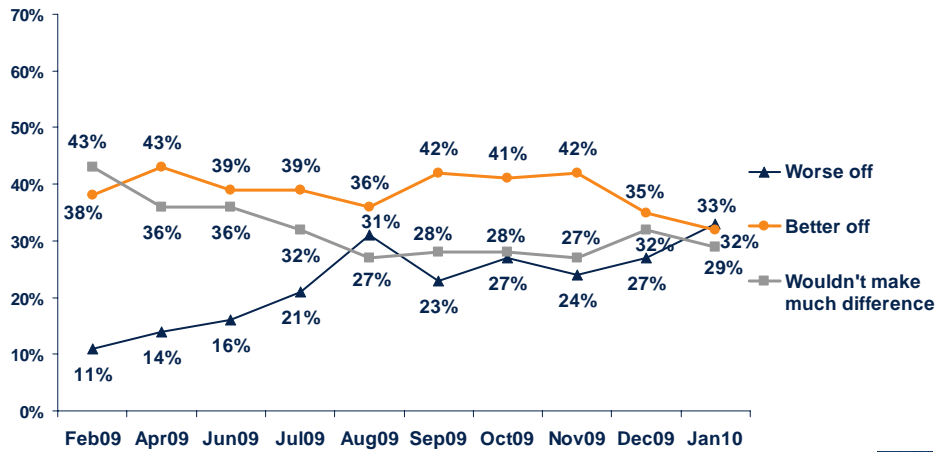
Note: Asked of half sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses for total=16%; Democrat=19%; Independent=15%; Republican=8%  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 4

## Impact on Own Family: Time Trend

Do you think you and your family would be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?



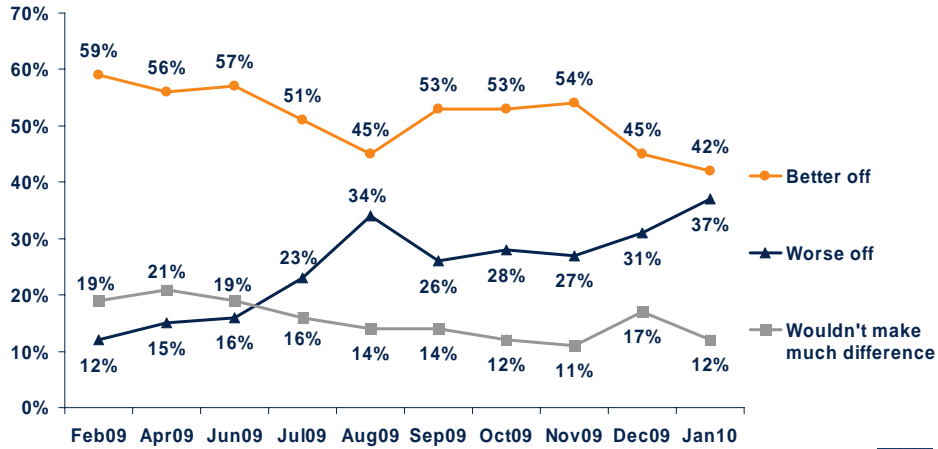
Note: Asked of half sample in Nov09. "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.," responses not shown.  
 Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking polls



CHART 5

## Impact on Country: Time Trend

Do you think the country as a whole would be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?



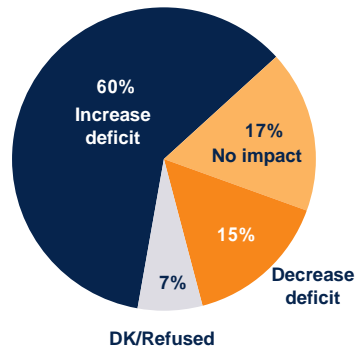
Note: Asked of half sample in Nov09. "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.," responses not shown.  
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking* polls



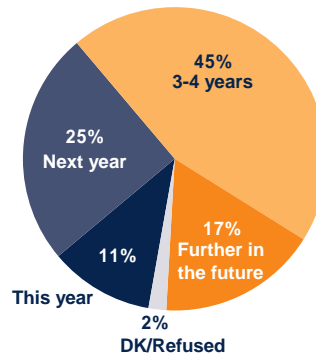
CHART 6

## Expectations: The Deficit; Timelines

As far as you know, is the health reform bill currently being discussed in Congress expected to increase the federal budget deficit over the next 10 years, decrease the federal budget deficit over the next 10 years, or is it not expected to have much impact on the deficit?



If Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, when would you expect that most of the provisions would take effect: this year, next year, 3 or 4 years from now, or further in the future than that?



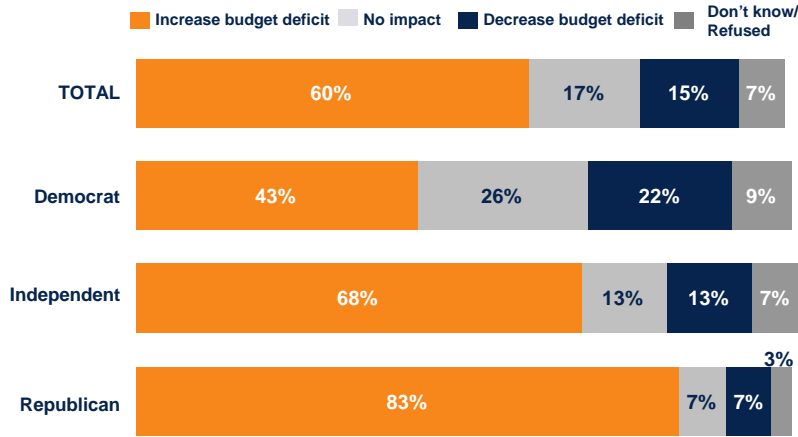
Note: Asked of quarter sample.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking* Poll (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 7

## Effect on the Deficit: Expectations by Party ID

As far as you know, is the health reform bill currently being discussed in Congress expected to increase the federal budget deficit over the next 10 years, decrease the federal budget deficit over the next 10 years, or is it not expected to have much impact on the deficit?



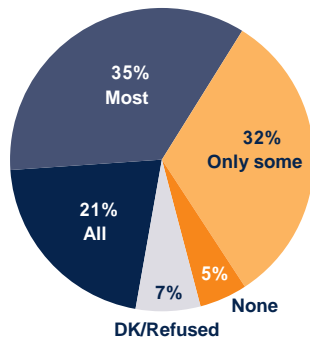
Note: Asked of quarter sample.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



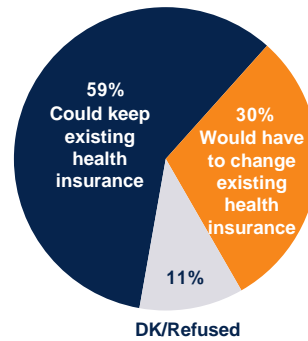
CHART 8

## Expectations: Coverage and Stability

As far as you know, would the health reform bill currently being discussed in Congress provide coverage to all of the country's uninsured, most of the uninsured, only some of the uninsured, or none of the uninsured?



As far as you know, if Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, would most people who currently get health insurance coverage through their employers keep their existing health insurance arrangements or would most people have to change their existing health insurance arrangements?



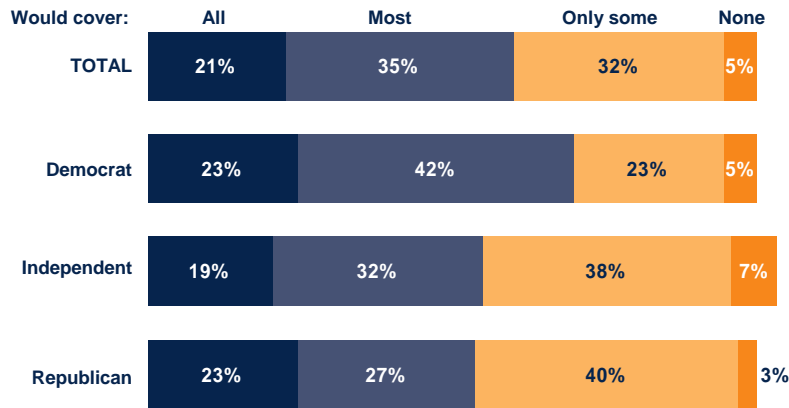
Note: Asked of half sample.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 9

## Coverage Expectations, by Party ID

As far as you know, would the health reform bill currently being discussed in Congress provide coverage to all of the country's uninsured, most of the uninsured, only some of the uninsured, or none of the uninsured?



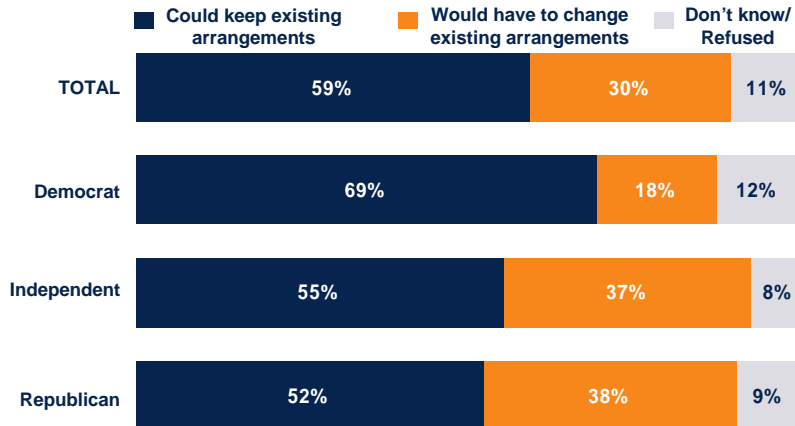
Note: Asked of quarter sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 10

## Will Proposals Require Change? By Party ID

As far as you know, if Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, would most people who currently get health insurance coverage through their employers keep their existing health insurance arrangements or would most people have to change their existing health insurance arrangements?



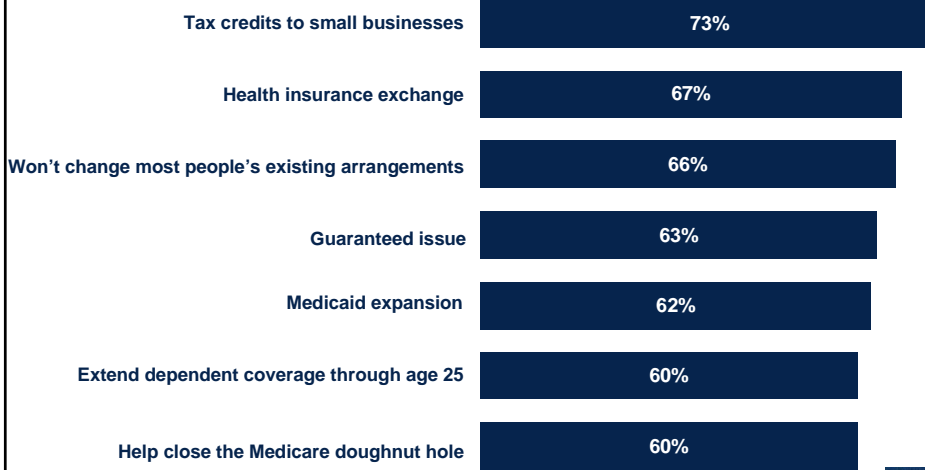
Note: Asked of quarter sample.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 11

## Most Popular Elements

Percent who say hearing the proposed legislation would do each of the following makes them MORE likely to support it:



Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>. Only items with responses 60% and over shown here. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 12

## Most Popular Elements by Party ID

Most popular elements by political party ID (ranked by % saying it makes them MORE likely to support the bill)

Rank	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
1	Tax credits to small businesses (84%)	Tax credits to small businesses (74%)	Won't change most people's existing arrangements (64%)
2	Medicaid expansion (79%)	Health insurance exchange (69%)	No federal money for abortion (60%)
3	Health insurance exchange (78%)	Won't change most people's existing arrangements (66%)	Tax credits to small businesses (58%)
4	Guaranteed issue (76%)	Help close the Medicare donut hole (65%)	Guaranteed issue (55%)
5	Extend dependent coverage through age 25 (74%)	Cover at least 31 million uninsured (61%)	No federal money for illegal immigrants (55%)*

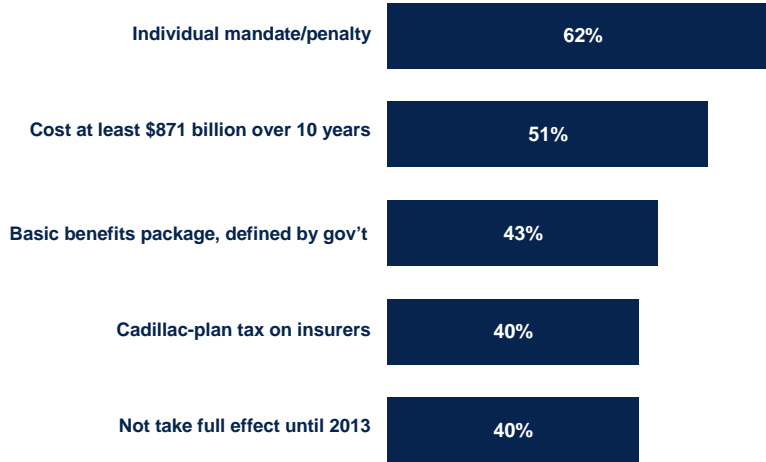
Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>. \* Indicates item is tied with the one directly above it. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 13

## Least Popular Elements

Percent who say hearing the proposed legislation would do each of the following makes them LESS likely to support it:



Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>. Only items with responses 40% and over shown here. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 14

## Least Popular Elements by Party ID

Least popular elements by political party ID (ranked by % saying it makes them LESS likely to support the bill)

Rank	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
1	Individual mandate/penalty (48%)	Individual mandate/penalty (67%)	Individual mandate/penalty (78%)
2	No federal money for illegal immigrants (35%)	Cost at least \$871 billion over 10 years (57%)	Basic benefits package, defined by gov't (73%)
3	Cost at least \$871 billion over 10 years (34%)	Not take full effect until 2013 (44%)	Cost at least \$871 billion over 10 years (70%)
4	Not take full effect until 2013 (33%)	Basic benefits package, defined by gov't (41%)	Cadillac-plan tax on insurers (66%)
5	Cadillac-plan tax on insurers (27%)	Limit increases in Medicare provider payments (38%)	Increase Medicare payroll tax on wealthy (61%)
5		Cadillac-plan tax on insurers (38%)*	

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>. \* Indicates item is tied with the one directly above it. Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)





# Public Reaction to Specific Elements



	Elements of Health Reform Legislation	More likely to support	Less likely to support	No diffc.
<b>Majority says makes them more likely to support</b>	Tax credits to small businesses	73%	11%	14%
	Health insurance exchange	67%	16%	14%
	Won't change most people's existing arrangements	66%	10%	19%
	Guaranteed issue	63%	24%	11%
	Medicaid expansion	62%	22%	14%
	Extend dependent coverage through age 25	60%	22%	15%
	Help close the Medicare doughnut hole	60%	21%	15%
	Increased income taxes on wealthy	59%	24%	16%
	Subsidy assistance to individuals	57%	24%	17%
	Reduce the deficit	56%	20%	18%
	Cover at least 31 million uninsured	56%	24%	16%
	No federal money for abortion	55%	26%	16%
	Limit age-adjusted rating	53%	25%	19%
	Taxes on drug and device makers, insurers	53%	26%	17%
	Public option	53%	31%	13%
	Medical loss ratio	52%	19%	21%
No federal money for illegal immigrants	52%	29%	17%	
<b>Plurality says makes them more likely to support</b>	Prohibit gender rating	50%	31%	17%
	Increase Medicare payroll tax on wealthy	49%	31%	18%
	Eliminating caps on lifetime benefits	48%	34%	16%
	Employer mandate/penalties	45%	33%	16%
	Limit increases in Medicare provider payments	43%	35%	15%
<b>Plurality says makes them less likely to support</b>	Basic benefits package, defined by gov't	38%	43%	16%
	Cadillac-plan tax on insurers	35%	40%	21%
	Not take full effect until 2013	23%	40%	34%
<b>Majority says makes them less likely to support</b>	Individual mandate/penalty	22%	62%	12%
	Cost at least \$871 billion over 10 years	19%	51%	24%

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)

CHART 16

## Turning Opponents into Supporters?

	% of opponents who say they are "more likely to support" because of that element
Tax credits to small businesses	62%
Won't change most people's existing arrangements	59%
No federal money for abortion	55%
No federal money for illegal immigrants	55%
Health insurance exchange	54%
Guaranteed issue	50%
Extend dependent coverage through age 25	48%
Help close the Medicare doughnut hole	42%
Increased income taxes on wealthy	41%
Medicaid expansion	40%

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 17

## Turning Supporters into Opponents?

	% of supporters who say they are "less likely to support" because of that element
Individual mandate/penalty	47%
Cost at least \$871 billion over 10 years	32%
No federal money for illegal immigrants	30%
Not take full effect until 2013	30%
No federal money for abortion	29%
Prohibit gender rating	25%
Eliminating caps on lifetime benefits	23%
Limit increases in Medicare provider payments	22%
Cadillac-plan tax on insurers	21%

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 18

## Most Popular of the Lesser Known Provisions

Provisions that less than half the public are aware of, but that a majority of the public says makes them feel more support:

	Percent of the public who believe proposed legislation would do each	Percent of the public who say hearing the legislation would do each makes them more likely to support it
Reduce the deficit	15%	56%
Prohibit gender rating	37%	50%
No federal money for illegal immigrants	40%	52%
Medical loss ratio	43%	52%
Help close the Medicare doughnut hole	44%	60%
Limit age-adjusted rating	44%	53%
Extend dependent coverage through age 25	48%	60%
Taxes on drug and device makers, insurers	49%	53%

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



CHART 19

## Most and Least Popular Elements Among Independents

	More likely to support the bill	Less likely to support the bill	No difference
<b>MOST POPULAR</b>			
Tax credits to small businesses	74%	10%	12%
Health insurance exchange	69%	14%	15%
Won't change most people's existing arrangements	66%	10%	21%
Help close the Medicare doughnut hole	65%	19%	13%
Cover at least 31 million uninsured	61%	22%	13%
Increased income taxes on wealthy	59%	25%	15%
<b>LEAST POPULAR</b>			
Not take full effect until 2013	26%	44%	27%
Cost at least \$871 billion over 10 years	14%	57%	26%
Individual mandate/penalty	19%	67%	10%

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



## Seniors: A Closer Look

	AGE		
	18-39	40-64	65+
<b>SUPPORT/OPOSE CURRENT REFORM PROPOSALS</b>			
Support proposals being discussed in Congress	47%	41%	37%
Oppose proposals being discussed	33%	46%	48%
No opinion	20%	13%	15%
<b>AWARENESS OF MEDICARE PROVISIONS</b>			
Aware proposals would limit future increases in Medicare provider payments	54%	46%	37%
Aware proposals would help close the Medicare doughnut hole	53%	38%	37%
<b>LIMITING FUTURE INCREASES IN MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENTS...</b>			
Makes you more likely to support proposals	53%	43%	24%
Makes you less likely to support	29%	37%	46%

Note: Question wording abbreviated. See Topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted January 7-12, 2010)



## Methodology

This *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane, Liz Hamel, Carolina Gutiérrez, and Sarah Cho. The survey was conducted January 7 through January 12, 2010, among a nationally representative random sample of 2,002 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (1,350) and cell phone (652, including 255 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Princeton Survey Research Associates.

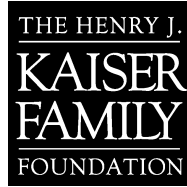
In order to gauge both knowledge and opinions about a long list of elements included in the legislation currently being discussed in Congress, most questions on the survey were asked of either random half-samples (roughly 1,000 respondents each) or quarter-samples (roughly 500 respondents each). Full details about which questions were asked of which samples are included in the Topline document (<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8042.cfm>).<sup>1</sup>

The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on half-samples, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points, and for results based on quarter-samples it is plus or minus 5 percentage points. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Please note: Trends in this document come from surveys listed on the last page; values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (\*); "VOL." indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice; due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100.

<sup>1</sup>Note that the questions measuring knowledge about the different elements included in the health care legislation and the questions asking whether the inclusion of different elements makes respondents more or less likely to support the legislation were asked of separate half-samples, so the results for these two sets of questions cannot be cross-tabulated.





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*The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, dedicated to producing and communicating the best possible analysis and information on health issues.*