



**HARVARD**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## Chartpack

Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

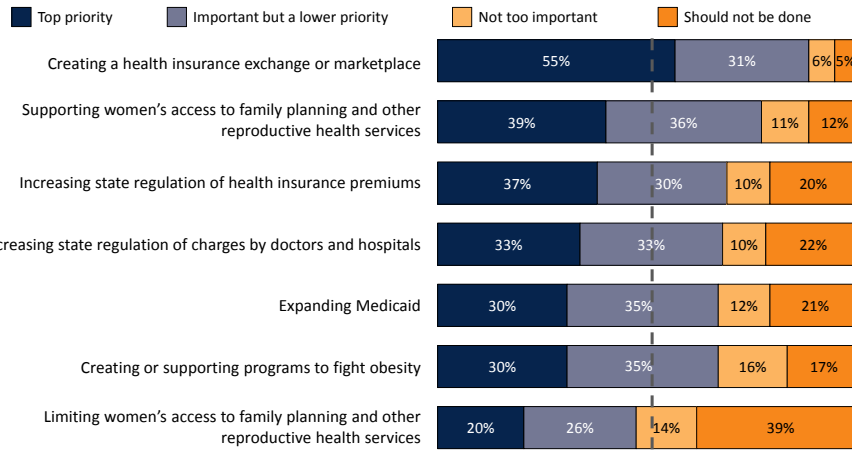
# ***The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113th Congress***

January 2013

SLIDE 1

## Creating Health Insurance Exchanges Tops The Priority List For States

Now I'd like to ask you about possible priorities for your state's governor and legislature when it comes to health policy this year. Should each of the following be a top priority, important but a lower priority, not too important or should it not be done?



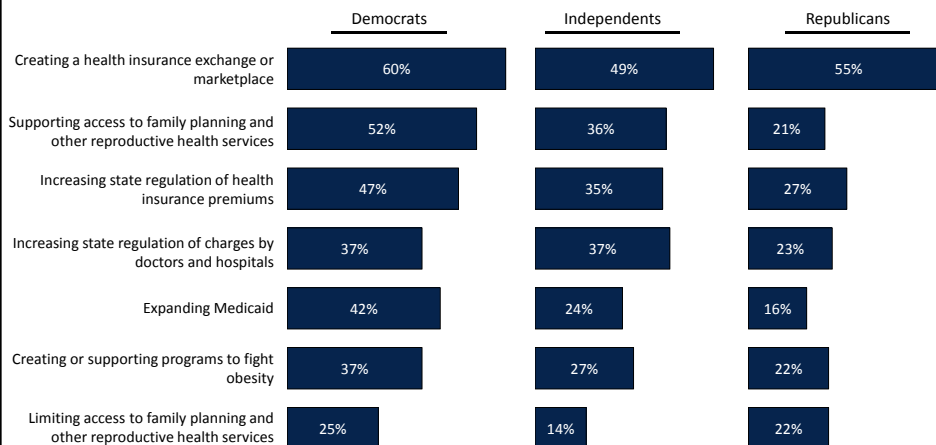
Note: Some items asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 2

## Majority Of Republicans And Democrats Say Creating Exchanges Should Be A Top Priority

Percent who say that each of the following should be a "top" health policy priority for their state's governor and legislature this year:



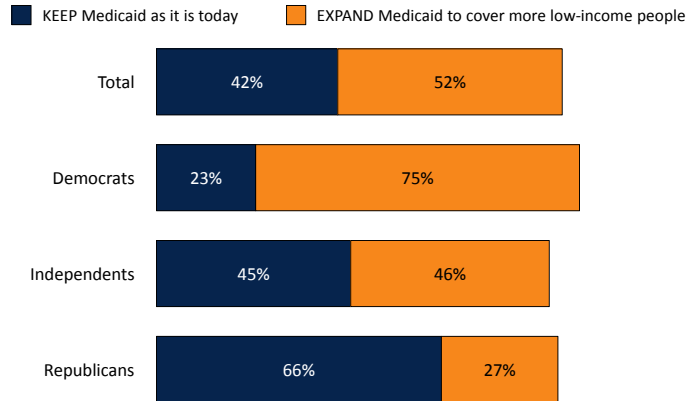
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 3

## More Support Than Oppose Medicaid Expansion

As you may know, the health care law expands Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults. The federal government will initially pay the entire cost of this expansion, and after several years, states will pay 10 percent and the federal government will pay 90 percent. The Supreme Court ruled that states may choose whether or not to participate in this expansion. What do you think your state should do?



Note: Other/Neither (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 4

## Some Malleability In Views On Medicaid Expansion

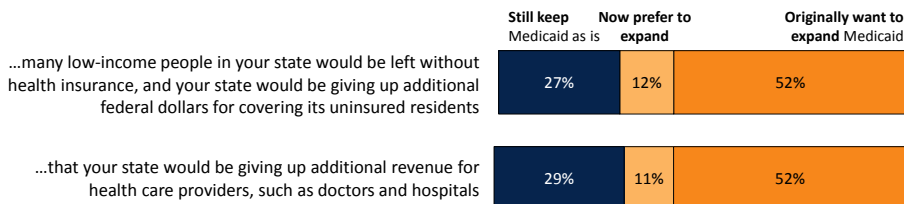
The health care law expands Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults. The Supreme Court ruled that states may choose whether or not to participate in this expansion. What do you think your state should do?



### ASKED OF THOSE WHO WANT TO KEEP MEDICAID AS IT IS TODAY:

What if you heard that this would mean...? Would you still prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today, or would you now prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people in your state?

Results for total after those who want to keep Medicaid as is heard follow-up argument:



Note: Some question wording abbreviated. See topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8405.cfm> for full question wording. Other/Neither (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Fewer Want To Expand Medicaid After Hearing Their State Could Spend More

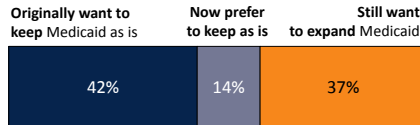
The health care law expands Medicaid to provide health insurance to more low-income uninsured adults. The Supreme Court ruled that states may choose whether or not to participate in this expansion. What do you think your state should do?



ASKED OF THOSE WHO WANT TO EXPAND MEDICAID:  
 What if you heard that...? Would you still prefer to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income uninsured people in your state, or would you now prefer to keep Medicaid as it is today?

Results for total after those who want to expand Medicaid heard follow-up argument:

...this expansion may require your state to spend some more money on Medicaid in the future, even though the federal government would be picking up most of the cost



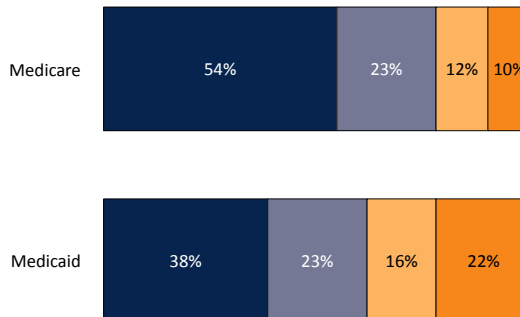
Note: Some question wording abbreviated. See topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8405.cfm> for full question wording. Other/Neither (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Medicare And Medicaid Personally Important To Majority Of Public

How important for you and your family is each of the following?

Very important    Somewhat important    Not too important    Not at all important



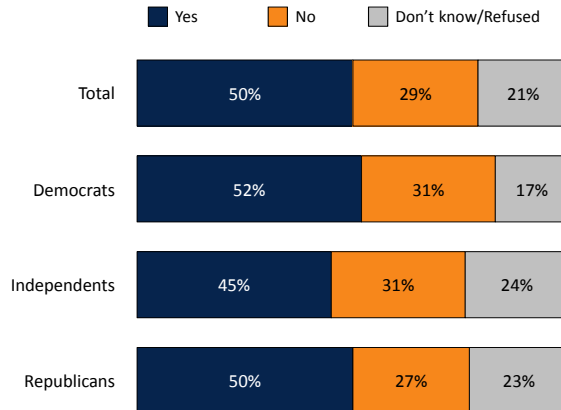
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 7

## Half Say Medicaid Is Working Well In Their State

Would you say the current Medicaid program is working well for people in your state, or not?



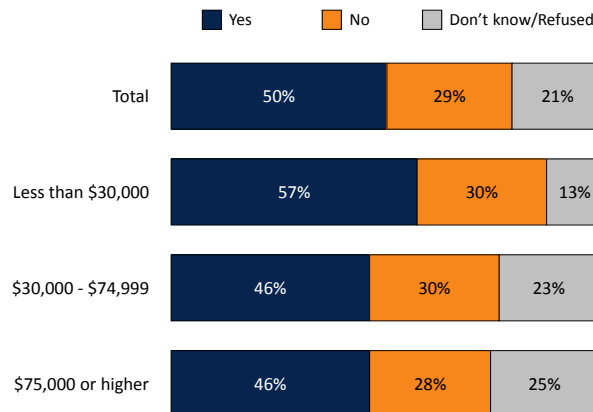
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 8

## Low-Income Households More Likely To Say Medicaid Is Working Well

Would you say the current Medicaid program is working well for people in your state, or not?



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)

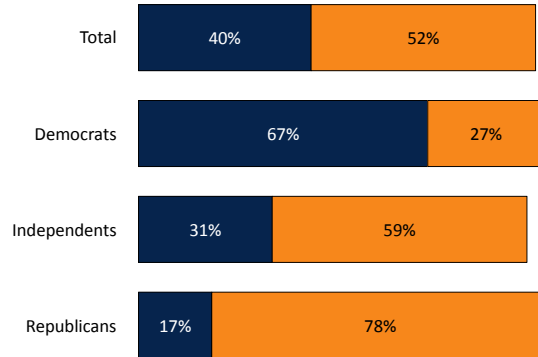


SLIDE 9

## Most Republicans Say ACA Opponents Should Try To Block Implementation, Most Democrats Say Move On

Which comes closer to your view about the 2010 health care law? Those opposed to the health care law should:

- ACCEPT THAT IT IS NOW THE LAW of the land and stop trying to block the law's implementation
- CONTINUE TRYING TO CHANGE OR STOP IT, so it has less impact on taxpayers, employers, and health care providers



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)

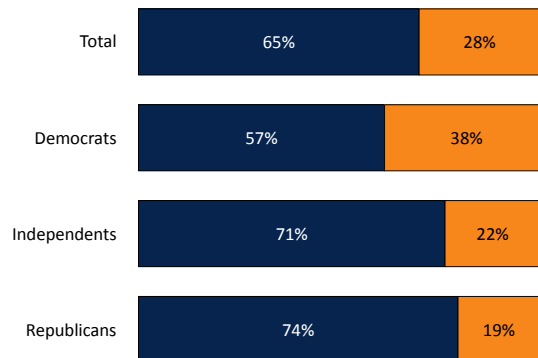


SLIDE 10

## Two-Thirds Prefer To Tackle Deficit Reduction Now

Do you think the president and the new Congress should act quickly to reduce the federal budget deficit, or do you think they should wait until the economy gets better before tackling the deficit?

- ACT QUICKLY to reduce the deficit
- WAIT until the economy gets better



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.

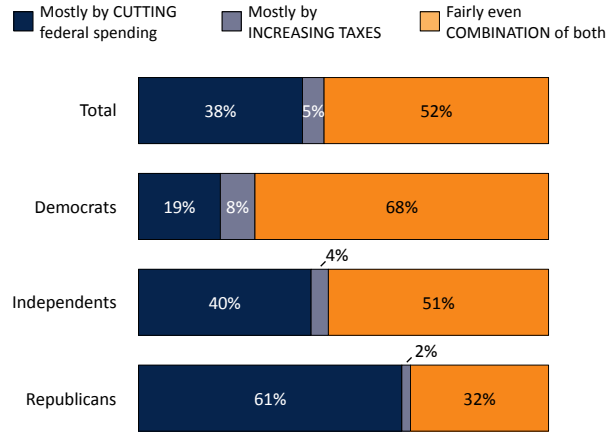
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 11

## Republicans Prefer To Cut Spending To Reduce Deficit, Democrats Favor A Combination Approach

What do you think is the best approach to reducing the federal budget deficit:



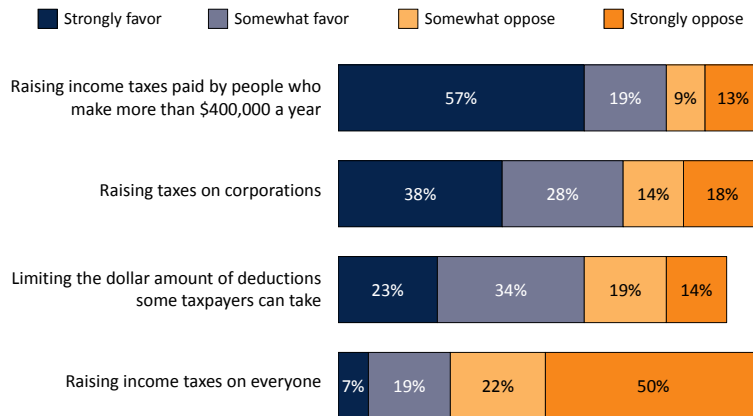
Note: Not take any action to reduce deficit now (vol.) and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 12

## Americans Support Raising Taxes For Wealthy, But Oppose Increasing For All

Still thinking about ways to reduce the federal budget deficit, do you favor or oppose each of the following?



Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Most Popular Revenue Raiser Among All Parties? Higher Taxes For The Rich

Percent who say they favor each of the following as a way to reduce the federal budget deficit:

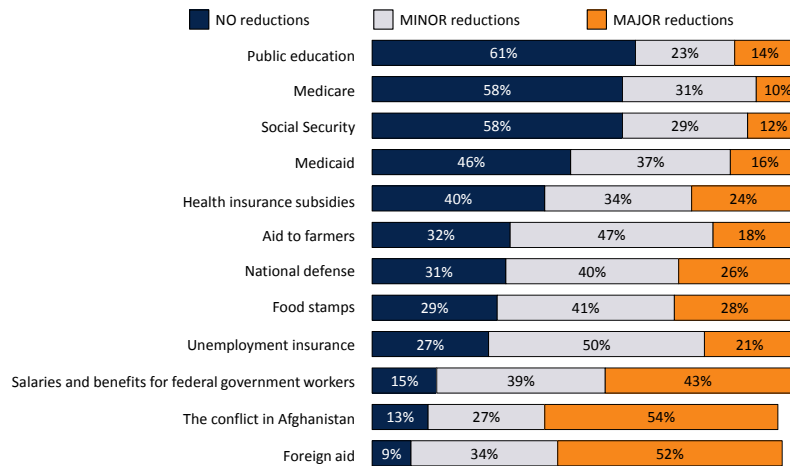
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Raising income taxes paid by people who make more than \$400,000 a year	89%	74%	60%
Raising taxes on corporations	81	62	49
Limiting the dollar amount of deductions some taxpayers can take	65	59	51
Raising income taxes on everyone	28	28	23

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Majority Want No Spending Cuts To Education, Medicare, And Social Security

If the president and Congress decide to reduce the deficit by reducing spending on federal programs and services, I'd like to know in which programs you would be willing to see spending reduced. For each program I name, please tell me if you would support major spending reductions, minor spending reductions or no reductions at all as a way to reduce the federal deficit.



Note: Some items asked of separate half samples. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)





## Majorities Agree: No Cuts To Medicare And Social Security

Percent who say they would support “no reductions” to spending for each of the following programs as a way to reduce the federal deficit:

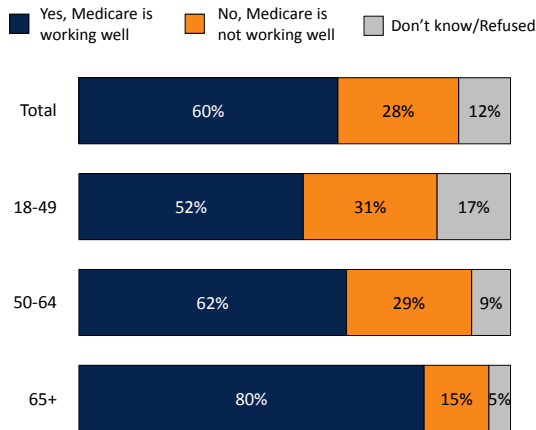
	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Public education	71%	62%	44%
Medicare	66	56	50
Social Security	66	55	55
Medicaid	59	42	29
Health insurance subsidies	55	36	18
Food stamps	43	24	13
Unemployment insurance	37	20	17
Aid to farmers	34	32	32
Salaries and benefits for federal government workers	23	13	19
National defense	22	30	45
Foreign aid	11	9	2
The conflict in Afghanistan	9	12	14

Note: Some items asked of separate half samples.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Seniors Most Likely To Say Medicare Is Working Well

Would you say the current Medicare program is working well for most seniors, or not?



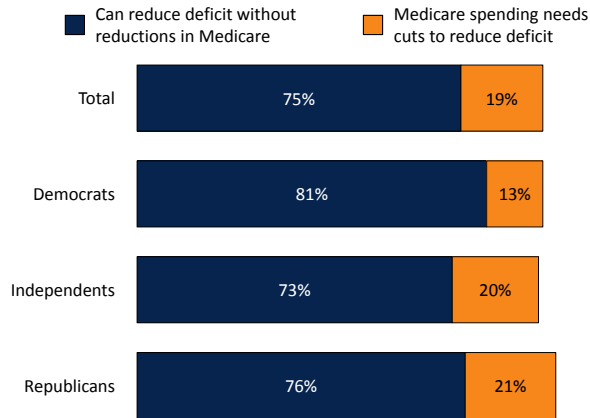
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 17

## Most Believe Deficit Reduction Can Happen Without Cutting Medicare

Which comes closer to your opinion: if the president and Congress made the right changes, they could reduce the federal budget deficit without major reductions in Medicare spending, or in order to significantly reduce the federal budget deficit, the president and Congress will need to make major cuts in Medicare spending?



Note: Asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused answers not shown.

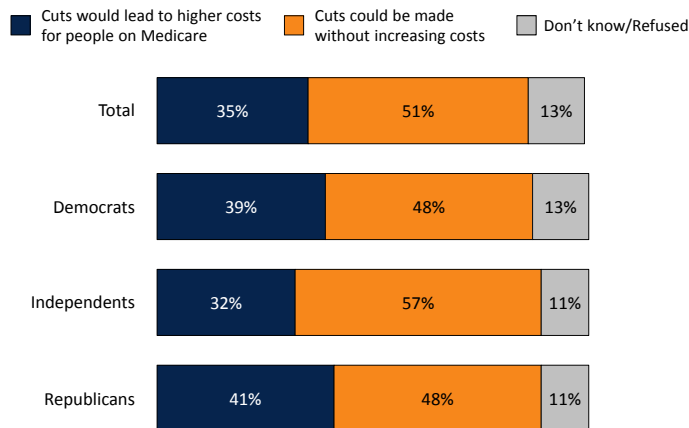
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 18

## Half Say Cuts To Medicare Can Be Made Without Increasing People's Health Costs

Do you think significant reductions in Medicare spending would lead to higher costs for people on the program or do you think significant cuts could be made without increasing costs for individuals on Medicare?



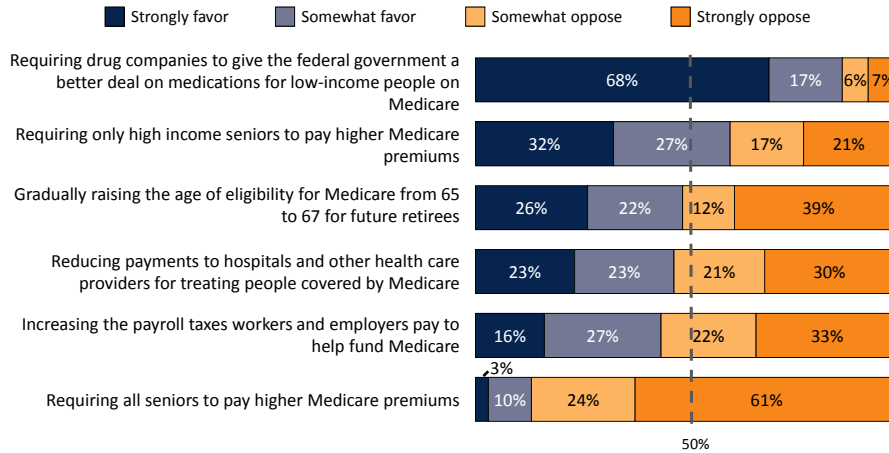
Note: Asked of half sample.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Support For Various Deficit-Reducing Changes To Medicare

I'm going to read you some changes to the Medicare program that have been discussed as ways to reduce the federal budget deficit. Please tell me whether you would generally favor or oppose each one.

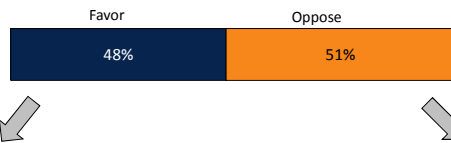


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Some Room To Move On Raising Age Of Eligibility For Medicare

Would you favor or oppose gradually raising the age of eligibility for Medicare from 65 to 67 for future retirees as a way to reduce the federal deficit?



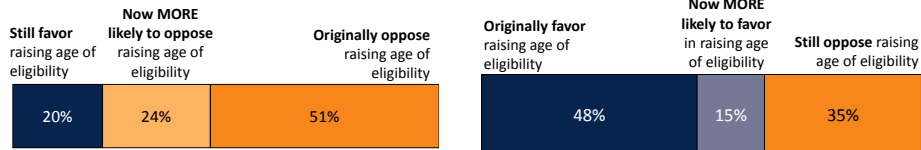
Asked of those who FAVOR raising the age of eligibility:

What if you heard that this proposal would increase costs for employers and people not yet eligible for Medicare, and may leave those that can't afford coverage uninsured?

Asked of those who OPPOSE raising the age of eligibility:

What if you heard that this proposal would save the federal government money and help preserve Medicare for the long term?

Results for total after hearing follow-up argument:



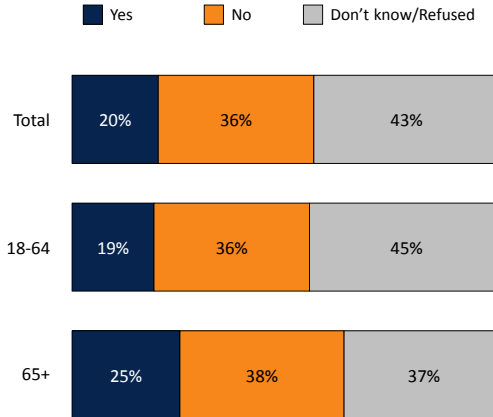
Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 21

## Even Among Seniors, Relatively Few Aware That Wealthier Seniors Pay Higher Medicare Premiums

As far as you know, do wealthier seniors currently pay higher premiums than other seniors for their Medicare coverage, or not?



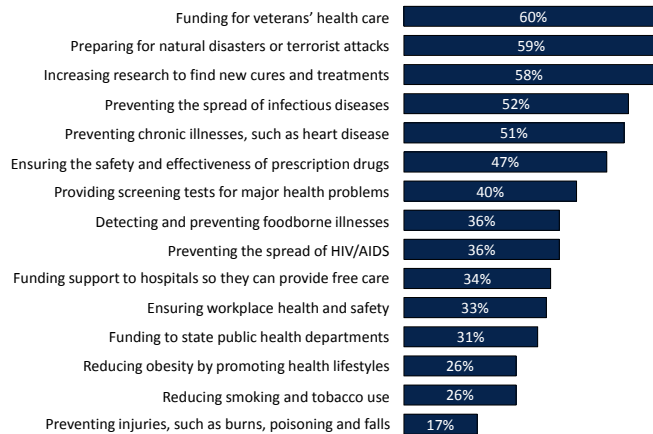
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



SLIDE 22

## In Context Of Deficit Reduction, Funding For Veterans, Medical Research, And Disaster Preparedness Come Out As Top Priorities

Given that the federal government has a substantial budget deficit and there are many difficult choices facing the president and Congress, the percent who say each of the following should be "one of the top priorities" for federal spending this year:

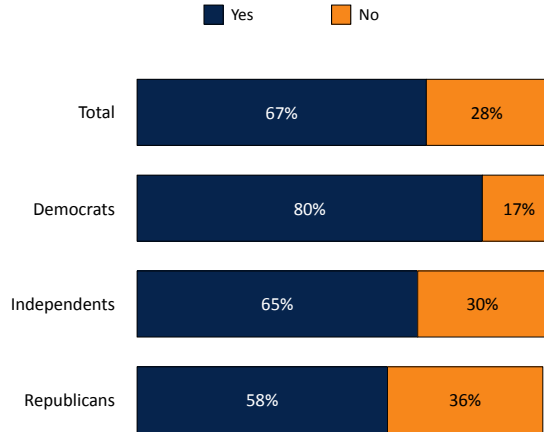


Note: Items asked of third samples. Some question wording abbreviated. See topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8405.cfm> for full question wording.  
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Majorities Believe That Federal Spending On Improving Health Saves Money

Do you believe that federal spending on improving health and preventing illnesses does or does not save the country money in the long run?

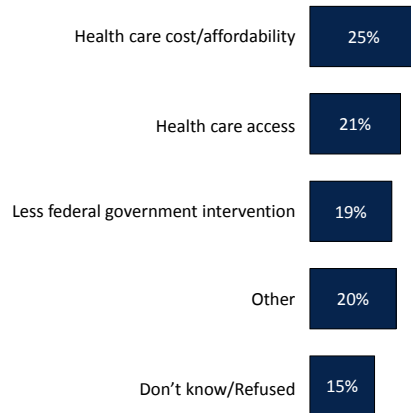


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## To Improve Health Care, About Half Say Government Should Work On Cost And Access, A Fifth Say Government Should Do Less

If the federal government could do one thing to improve the nation's health care system in the next few years, what do you think it should be? *{open-end}*

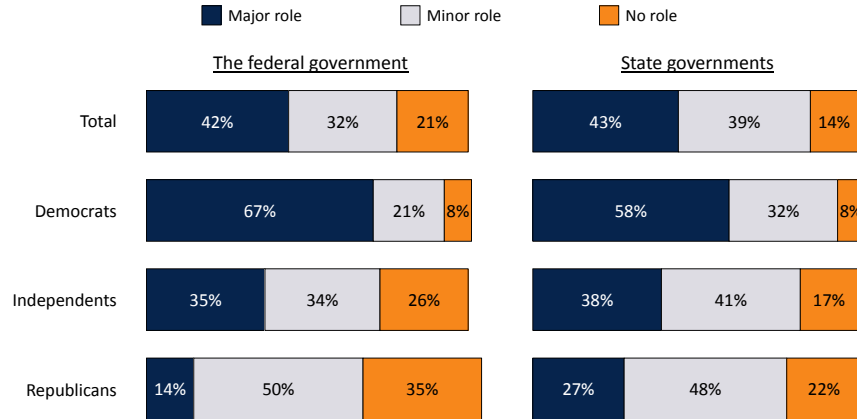


Note: Responses less than 5% were combined into the "Other" category. See topline: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8405.cfm> for full list of responses.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Partisan Differences On Role Of Government In Health Care

When it comes to making the health care system in America work well, do you think each of the following should play a major role, a minor role or no role?

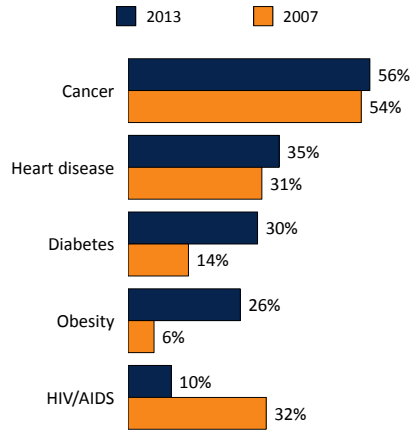


Note: Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013)



## Threat Of Obesity Up Over Time, HIV/AIDS Down

What two diseases or health conditions do you think pose the greatest health threats to the American public? *{open-end}*



Note: Asked of half sample in 2013. Only responses of 10% or more shown. Other and Don't know/Refused answers not shown.  
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress* (conducted January 3-9, 2013); Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health (conducted April 11-15, 2007)



## Methodology

This Kaiser Family Foundation/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health survey, *The Public's Health Care Agenda for the 113th Congress*, was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation led by Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., including Claudia Deane, Bianca DiJulio, Sarah Cho, and Theresa Boston, by Debra Perez, Ph.D., Katherine Hempstead, Ph.D., and David Colby, Ph.D. at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and by Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., John Benson and Mandy Brulé at the Harvard School of Public Health. The survey was conducted January 3 through January 9, 2013, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,347 adults ages 18 and older. Computer-assisted telephone interviews conducted by landline (807) and cell phone (540, including 253 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish by Social Science Research Solutions. The combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to balance the sample demographics to match Census estimates for the national population on sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, nativity (for Hispanics only), household size, region, population density, and telephone usage.

All statistical tests of significance account for the effect of weighting. The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

The full question wording and methodology of the poll can be viewed online at:  
<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8405.cfm>.



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The Foundation is a non-profit private operating foundation, based in Menlo Park, California.*