

December 10, 2009

To: Communications Workers of America

Fr: John Anzalone and Matt Hogan

Re: Eastern Voters are Strongly Opposed to Taxing High-Cost Insurance Plans

As Congress deliberates over how to fund health insurance reform, new polling of 400 likely 2010 voters in Connecticut and Delaware, commissioned by the Communications Workers of America and conducted by Anzalone Liszt Research, finds that eastern voters overwhelmingly oppose taxing high-cost health insurance plans as a way to help fund health insurance reform, but support raising taxes on the wealthy to accomplish the same goal.

Support for taxing high-cost insurance plans would have electoral implications as well, as 61% of eastern voters say that it would make them less likely to re-elect their member of Congress in 2010. Conversely, a majority of voters (54%) would be *more* likely to re-elect a member of Congress who supports raising taxes on the wealthy as a way to fund health insurance reform.

- **Strong opposition to taxing high-cost insurance plans in both Connecticut and Delaware.** Over 60% of voters in both states oppose an excise tax, with 62% of Delaware voters rejecting such a proposal and 65% of Connecticut voters doing so.
- **Eastern voters are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress if they support taxing high-cost health insurance plans.** Eastern voters are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress by a 37-point margin (61% less likely to 24% more likely) if they support taxing high-cost insurance plans. This opposition is not tepid, as 45% say that if their member of Congress supported an excise tax, it would make them *much* less likely to re-elect them.
- **Opposition to an excise tax on high-cost plans is even higher among Independents.** Independents in the East are more likely to both oppose an excise tax on health insurance plans (66%) and vote against a member of Congress that supports one (64%), than eastern voters overall.
- **Eastern voters support raising taxes on households earning over a million dollars a year to help pay for health insurance reform.** Voters clearly prefer to fund health insurance reform by raising taxes on the wealthy than by taxing high-cost plans. By a 24-point margin (60% to 36%) they support raising taxes on the wealthy to help fund reform. The proposal was supported by strong majorities in both Delaware (62%) and Connecticut (57%), and also enjoyed backing from a majority of Independents in the East (53%).
- **A majority is more likely to re-elect their member of Congress if they fund healthcare reform by raising taxes on the wealthy.** Unlike the risks inherent with supporting an excise tax, eastern voters are more likely to re-elect their member of Congress by an 18-point margin (54% to 36%) if they support a tax on the wealthy, while Independents lean more likely to re-elect by 9 points (49% to 40%).