

December 10, 2009

To: Communications Workers of America

Fr: John Anzalone and Matt Hogan

Re: **Voters Across the Country are Strongly Opposed to Taxing High-Cost Insurance Plans**

As Congress deliberates over how to fund health insurance reform, new polling of 2,200 likely 2010 voters across ten mostly purple to red states, commissioned by the Communications Workers of America and conducted by Anzalone Liszt Research, finds that 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 over 60% of voters say that it would make them less likely to re-elect their member of Congress in 2010. This strong opposition to an excise tax on health insurance plans spans all regions, as well as all seven of the states surveyed that will have frontline Senate races in 2010. Conversely, a plurality of voters (49%) 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.

- **Opposition to taxing high-cost insurance plans extends across regions and 2010 frontline Senate states.** Overall, 70% of voters oppose an excise tax on health insurance plans; at least 60% of voters in each region oppose an excise tax, as well as in each of the seven states surveyed with 2010 frontline Senate races (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Nevada and North Dakota).
- **Voters are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress if they support taxing high-cost health insurance plans.** Across the states and regions surveyed, voters are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress by a margin of 39 points (63% less likely to 22% more likely) if they support taxing high-cost insurance plans. This opposition is not tepid, as nearly half (48%) 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.** Across every region, Independents are more likely to both oppose an excise tax on health insurance plans (75% across all ten states) and vote against a candidate that supports one (68%), than voters overall.
- **A majority of voters supports 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 12-point margin (54% to 42%) they support raising taxes on the wealthy to help fund reform. This proposal was supported by a majority of voters in seven of the ten states surveyed, and was supported by 49% in the remaining three (Colorado, Louisiana and North Dakota).

Anzalone Liszt Research conducted 2,200 live telephone interviews with likely 2010 voters in ten states (Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and Virginia) between November 30 and December 3, 2009. The states were broken out into the following regions: East: Connecticut and Delaware, N=400, margin of error (MoE) 4.9%; South: Arkansas, Louisiana and Virginia, N=600, MoE 4.0%; Southwest: Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, N=600, MoE 4.0%; Indiana: N=300, MoE 5.66%; North Dakota: N=300, MoE 5.66%.