

December 10, 2009

To: Communications Workers of America

Fr: John Anzalone and Matt Hogan

Re: **North Dakota Voters are Strongly Opposed to Taxing High-Cost Insurance Plans**

As Congress deliberates over how to fund health insurance reform, new polling of 300 likely 2010 voters in North Dakota, commissioned by the Communications Workers of America and conducted by Anzalone Liszt Research, finds that voters here overwhelmingly oppose taxing high-cost health insurance plans as a way to help fund health insurance reform, but a plurality supports raising taxes on the wealthy to accomplish the same goal.

Support for taxing high-cost insurance plans would have electoral implications as well, as 65% of North Dakota voters say that it would make them less likely to re-elect their member of Congress in 2010.

- **Strong opposition to taxing high-cost insurance plans.** Nearly three-quarters (74%) of North Dakota voters oppose an excise tax on health insurance plans.
- **North Dakota voters are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress if they support taxing high-cost health insurance plans.** North Dakota voters are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress by a 48-point margin (65% less likely to 17% more likely) if they support taxing high-cost insurance plans. This opposition is not tepid, as 51% 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 North Dakota are more likely to both oppose an excise tax on health insurance plans (82%) and vote against a member of Congress that supports one (68%), than North Dakota voters overall.
- **A plurality of North Dakota voters support raising taxes on households earning over a million dollars a year to help pay for health insurance reform.** Voters here clearly prefer to fund health insurance reform by raising taxes on the wealthy than by taxing high-cost plans. By a 5-point margin (49% to 44%) they support raising taxes on the wealthy to help fund reform.
- **For members of Congress, supporting a tax on the wealthy is much less risky than supporting an excise tax.** Unlike the risks inherent with supporting an excise tax, North Dakota voters are split (44% more likely to 46% less likely) on whether to re-elect their member of Congress if they support taxing the wealthy as a way to fund health insurance reform.