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## **New Anzalone Poll Finds Sweeping Majority of Americans Opposed to Taxing Health Plans**

*Poll commissioned by CWA shows Americans across the country are less likely to re-elect members of Congress who support the tax*

*States Polled: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Virginia*

A new Anzalone-Liszt Research poll, commissioned by the Communications Workers of America (CWA), shows that 70% of voters oppose placing an excise tax on high-cost health insurance plans as a way to help pay for health care reform. The poll echoes the results of three public polls that also found that Americans across the country are against the tax included in the Senate version of the health care reform bill.

The poll shows that the political implications for those who support taxing such plans are great. Sixty-three percent of voters would be less likely to re-elect their member of Congress in 2010 if they supported taxing insurance plans.

Opposition to the tax is even higher among Independent voters – with over two-thirds (68%) of Independents indicating that they are less likely to re-elect their member of Congress if they support the tax.

“It is clear from the poll that voters have a real sense of what is a fair way to pay for health care reform, citing the overwhelming preference to tax upper-income families instead of taxing health care benefits,” said John Anzalone, president of Anzalone-Liszt Research.

By a 54% to 42% margin, a majority of voters support raising taxes on individuals making more than half a million dollars a year and households making more than \$1 million, as a way to help pay for health insurance reform.

The poll was conducted as Senators debate whether to remove the so-called “Cadillac tax” from its version of the health care reform bill. The Senate bill would raise \$150 billion over 10 years by assessing a 40 percent excise tax on the value of health care plans that exceed a certain level of spending. The House bill raises \$460 billion over 10 years by assessing a surtax on the incomes of wealthy Americans. This issue will be a major focus of a House-Senate conference on the bills between the two chambers.

*The full poll is available at [www.healthcarevoices.org/BenefitsTaxPoll](http://www.healthcarevoices.org/BenefitsTaxPoll).*

Below is a breakdown of key questions from the poll, which has a sample of 2,200 likely 2010 voters across 10 mostly purple-to-red states, seven of which are frontline Democratic states.

*Q2: Would you favor or oppose placing a tax on high-cost health insurance plans as a way to help pay for health insurance reform?*

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Total</b>	19	70
<b>South West</b>	21	66
<b>South</b>	18	74
<b>East</b>	23	63

*Q3: If your member of Congress voted to place a tax on high-cost health insurance plans as a way to help pay for health insurance reform, would you be more likely or less likely to re-elect your member of Congress?*

	<b>Combined More Likely</b>	<b>Combined Less Likely</b>
<b>Total</b>	22	63
<b>South West</b>	23	60
<b>South</b>	22	66
<b>East</b>	24	61

*Q4: Would you favor or oppose a tax increase on individuals making more than half a million dollars a year and households making over one million a year, as a way to help pay for health insurance reform?*

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Total</b>	54	42
<b>South West</b>	54	43
<b>South</b>	53	44
<b>East</b>	60	36

*Q5: If your member of Congress voted for a tax increase on individuals making more than half a million dollars a year, and households making over one million a year, as a way to help pay for health insurance reform, would you be more likely or less likely to re-elect your member of Congress?*

	<b>More Likely</b>	<b>Less Likely</b>
<b>Total</b>	49	43
<b>South West</b>	49	43
<b>South</b>	48	45
<b>East</b>	54	36