



CBS News/New York Times Poll
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**Repeal Health Care Reform?
 January 15 – 19, 2011**

- The new House of Representatives has just passed a vote to repeal the health care legislation passed last year – but more Americans would now keep it (48%) than repeal it (40%).
- Those who want repeal are divided as to whether the entire law, or just parts of it, should be repealed. When asked what they would get rid of, many don't have an answer, but the insurance coverage mandate is the top choice (27%).
- In two important areas, few see benefits from the bill. 40% think the health care bill will hurt the economy, which has been a top concern for years. Just 25% say it will help. And just 13% say they have benefited from the provisions of the bill already in effect.
- Americans don't see health care as Congress' top priority – job creation heads that list.

By an eight point margin, more Americans would prefer to keep the health care legislation passed last year than repeal it. Previously, Americans were more evenly divided. The poll was mostly conducted before the House of Representatives voted to repeal the legislation.

Health Care Law: Should Congress Try To...?

	Now	11/2010	10/2010
Repeal it	40%	45%	41%
Keep it	48	44	45

Perhaps not surprisingly, there are differences by political party. Most Republicans would like to see the health care law abolished, while most Democrats want the law to remain. Independents are more divided, but more want to keep it than repeal it.

Health Care Law: Should Congress Try To...?

	Reps	Dems	Inds
Repeal it	73%	16%	38%
Keep it	16	77	45

But health care falls far below the economy and jobs on Americans' list of priorities for Congress to address. When presented with a list of items, 43% say Congress should concentrate on job creation, and just 18% choose health care.

Most Important Thing for Congress to Concentrate On?

Job creation	43%
Health care	18
Federal budget deficit	14
Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan	12
Illegal immigration	7

Those who would like to see the law repealed are somewhat divided as to how much of the legislation to get rid of. 50% want to get rid of all the legislation, while slightly fewer, 44%, want just certain parts of the law repealed.

Repeal of Health Care Law

(Among those who want health care repealed)

All of it	50%
Certain parts of it	44

When proponents of repeal are asked which part of the health care reform they most want to see eliminated, the mandate that individuals buy health insurance is far and away the top answer. But even more, 36%, don't know what part they would like to see repealed.

Which Part of Health Care Law Would You Most Like to See Repealed?

(Among those who want health care repealed)

Insurance mandate for individuals	27%
Higher premiums	2
Funding abortions	2
Higher taxes	2
Everything	21
Don't know	36

Those who support repeal were asked whether they would continue to do so if it meant that insurance companies were no longer required to cover people with pre-existing medical conditions; 52% said they would, but 35% said in that case, the law should not be repealed.

Few Benefits Seen

Few Americans see personal benefits from the bill, and many see a potential detriment. The economy has long been Americans' top priority, and large majorities have rated it negatively in recent years; more expect the health care bill will hurt the economy than help it.

Effect on Economy

Help	25%
Hurt	40
No effect	22

Three in four of those who expect the bill to hurt the economy think it should be repealed.

In addition, few Americans say they have received any benefits from the bill. Just 13% say they have personally benefited from any of the law's provisions that have already gone into effect, such as allowing parents to cover children on their insurance until age 26, or prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. 84% say they have not benefited.

Benefited from Provisions Already in Effect?

Yes	13%
No	84

Those who have experienced benefits from the bill are far more apt to say the bill should be kept as is, and not repealed.

And finally, there may be some lingering confusion about the provisions of the bill. 56% of Americans say the bill's impact on themselves and their families has not been explained well to them. 41% say it has.

Bill's Impact Explained to You...

Very well	10%
Somewhat well	31
Not too/not at all well	56

Americans have long been unclear about the bill: in the fall of 2009 and again in the spring of 2010 after months of debate surrounding the bill, majorities said they found it "confusing."

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,036 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone January 15 - 19, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
Repeal Health Care Reform?
January 15-19, 2011

q11 Which of the following do you think is the most important thing for Congress to concentrate on right now: job creation, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the federal budget deficit, illegal immigration, health care, or something else?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	*** Party ID ***		
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind
Job creation	43	35	50	42
Wars in Iraq & Afghanistan	12	9	19	9
Federal budget deficit	14	25	4	15
Illegal immigration	7	10	4	7
Health care	18	14	19	20
Something else	3	4	2	3
DK/NA	3	3	2	4

q65 Do you think Congress should try to repeal the health care law that was passed last year, or should they let it stand?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Nov10b
Repeal law	40	73	16	38	45%
Let stand	48	16	77	45	44
DK/NA	12	11	6	17	11

q66 Do you think Congress should try to repeal all of the health care law, or only certain parts of it?

	** AMONG THOSE WHO SAY "REPEAL LAW" IN Q65**			
All of it	50	56	n/a	46
Certain parts of it	44	39	n/a	49
DK/NA	6	5	n/a	5

q67 What part of the health care law that was passed last year would you MOST like to see repealed?

Insurance Mandate	27	27	n/a	31
Everything	21	20	n/a	26
Funding abortions	2	3	n/a	1
Higher premiums	2	3	n/a	0
Higher taxes	2	1	n/a	2
Requiring bus. to provide ins.	1	1	n/a	1
Gov't involvement	1	1	n/a	2
Paying for uninsured	1	0	n/a	1
Death panels	1	1	n/a	1
No choice	1	0	n/a	0
Cover children to age 26	1	2	n/a	0
Cover pre-existing condition	1	1	n/a	1
Medicare	1	1	n/a	1
Other	2	3	n/a	4
DK/NA	36	36	n/a	29

q68 What if repealing the law meant that insurance companies were no longer required to cover people with existing medical conditions or prior illnesses, then do you think the law should be repealed, or not?

** AMONG THOSE WHO SAY "REPEAL LAW" IN Q65**

	Total %	*** Party ID ***		
		Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Should be repealed	52	58	n/a	50
Should not	35	33	n/a	33
DK/NA	13	9	n/a	17

q69 In the long run, do you think the health care law that was passed last year will improve the national economy, hurt the national economy, or won't it affect the national economy?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
Improve	25	7	47	18
Hurt	40	64	20	41
No effect	22	20	23	23
DK/NA	13	9	10	18

q70 As you may know, several provisions of the health care law have already gone into effect, such as allowing parents to cover their children on their insurance until the age of 26 and prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to children with pre-existing illnesses. Have you personally benefited from any of the law's provisions that have already gone into effect, or not?

Have	13	11	16	13
Have not	84	85	82	84
DK/NA	3	4	2	3

q71 Thinking about what impact the health care law will have on you and your family, how well do you think that's been explained to you -- very well, somewhat well, not too well or not well at all?

Very well	10	6	14	10
Somewhat well	31	31	35	26
Not too well	30	27	32	31
Not well at all	26	34	16	30
DK/NA	3	2	3	3

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1036	
Total Republicans	302	284 (27%)
Total Democrats	341	351 (34%)
Total Independents	393	401 (38%)