



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
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RE: CFIF MAY 2021 NATIONAL SURVEY – KEY FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS:

A national survey conducted from May 13-19, 2021 by Public Opinion Strategies on behalf of the Center For Individual Freedom (CFIF), shows:

Issue Environment:

- The economy/jobs (37%) and the coronavirus (32%) continue to be the top two most important issues voters want addressed in the U.S. These two issues have flipped in importance since October 2020 with the economy/jobs now on top. The percentage of voters saying immigration and border security is one of their top two most important issues has increased since October 2020 (from 10% to 24%) and now ranks third. Prescription drug costs (5%) and education (7%) continue to be the least important issues voters want addressed.
- The most important health care issue for the majority of voters continues to be the cost of health insurance coverage (53%).
- When it comes to health care, voters continue to say the role of the federal government should be that of providing oversight and incentives to health care providers, prescription drug companies and health insurers (72%), not setting prices for health care services and prescription medicines and determining what services and medicines are covered by private health plans (28%). Majorities of voters across party say the federal government should provide oversight and incentives rather than setting prices and determining coverage.

New Federal Government Spending:

- More than six in ten voters (62%) do not want new federal government spending bills passed without President Biden reaching a compromise with and getting support from Republicans in Congress.
- When considering funding sources for new federal government spending, three quarters or more of voters do not want to use Medicare savings from lowering drug costs and do not want to impose a 95% tax on prescription medicines to pay for it.

Addressing Prescription Drug Costs:

- More than six in ten voters choose HR19 (64%) over HR3 (36%) as the best way to address prescription drug costs. Majorities of voters across party choose HR19 as the best approach for addressing prescription drug costs (74% of Republicans / 59% of Independents / 58% of Democrats).
 - We tested two different approaches for addressing prescription drug costs. One approach summarized the core elements in HR19 and the other approach summarized the core elements in HR3. For ease of reference, the exact language we tested below is labeled as such in parentheses. These labels were not read by respondents, only the actual text of each approach was shown.

Requiring health insurers to pass the discounts they receive from drug companies on medicines to patients, increasing transparency on prices from drug companies, hospitals and health insurers, strengthening the FDA to get generic prescription drugs to market faster, setting a cap on the amount seniors pay out-of-pocket annually for their medicines, and investing money in the U.S. health infrastructure for vaccines and preparedness for future health pandemics. (HR19)	64%
Having the federal government set the drug prices for the 250 most expensive medicines so the U.S. government pays no more than 1.2 times what foreign countries pay for the same drugs, penalizing drug companies for raising drug prices above the rate of inflation, taxing pharmaceuticals up to 95% for non-compliance with government price negotiations and setting a cap on the amount seniors pay out-of-pocket annually for their medicines. (HR3)	36%

- More than seven in ten voters say they would oppose HR3 if it causes delays in access to new prescription drugs (76% Oppose), results in less access to new cancer medicines for seniors (76%), results in the elimination of hundreds of thousands of biopharmaceutical industry jobs (72%), or results in fewer new medicines developed in the future (72%). Majorities of voters across party say they would oppose HR3 if it could result in these issues.

Intellectual Property Protections & The Coronavirus Vaccines:

- Roughly eight in ten voters agree that countries should honor their trade agreements with the U.S. protecting U.S. IP (83% Agree) and that the U.S. needs strong IP protections to encourage innovation (78%).
- Even in consideration of the coronavirus, majorities of voters agree U.S. IP protections need to be in place (68% Agree) and strong (64%).
- Voters overwhelmingly agree with statements about the importance of the American pharmaceutical industry producing COVID-19 vaccines (87% Agree) and protecting against future pandemics (82%).
- More than eight in ten voters (82%) agree we need to lower barriers that come between medical innovations and patients as we did with the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Six in ten voters (62%) say it should be an absolute top or high priority for the U.S. to ensure COVID-19 vaccines become widely available globally.
- However, majorities of voters (66%) support licensing COVID-19 vaccine IP instead of waiving IP to boost the global supply of vaccines. This is true across party (77% of Republicans / 69% of Independents / 55% of Democrats).
- Voters, across party, are also more likely to side with the point of view that licensing is the better approach to increasing global supply of COVID-19 vaccines. (63% All Voters/ 66% of Republicans / 62% of Independents / 61% of Democrats)
- Three quarters or more of voters are concerned that waiving COVID-19 vaccine IP could have significant negative implications including risking errors in vaccine development and safety (82% Concerned) and causing confusion and raising concerns about counterfeit vaccines (81%).

Methodology:

Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national online survey among N=1,000 registered voters from May 13-19, 2021. The confidence interval for N=1,000 is +/-3.53%.