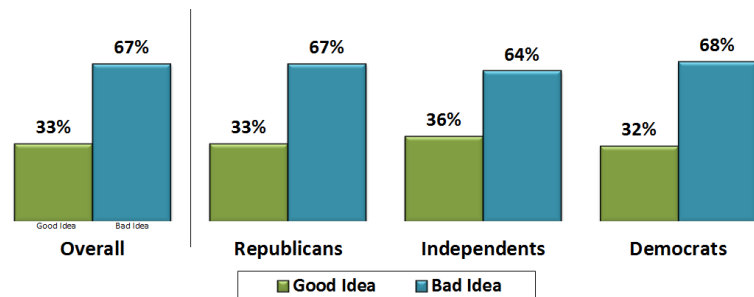


American Benefits Council/Public Opinion Strategies Survey: Voters reject proposals to tax employer-sponsored health benefits

As congressional leaders contemplate taxing American employees' health benefits for the first time, through a "cap" on the current tax exclusion, a nationwide poll conducted in 2017 confirms that proposals to tax employer-based health benefits would be poorly received by the voting public.

Public Opinion Strategies, a national public polling firm, conducted a nationwide online survey of 600 registered voters from January 4-6, 2017. These findings indicate that voters are extremely skeptical of the proposed cap and its purported benefits. [A PowerPoint slide deck with the full results](#) is now available. Key findings include:

When given arguments for and against the cap, voters of every stripe rejected the arguments for the cap by a two-to-one margin. (Slide 12)



Voters are more likely to support their representatives' re-election if the representative opposes the cap. This support for representatives who oppose the cap is true across voters' party affiliation or what party holds the seat. (Slide 10)

In voters' minds, the worst potential outcomes of the cap are the most likely to happen, and vice-versa. Voters were generally dubious of assumptions that the cap proposal would lead to reduced costs, higher wages and expanded coverage; but they expressed concern that it would lead to less employer coverage, fewer choices and higher out-of-pocket costs. (Slide 15)

"Taxing health benefits doesn't save money, it simply shifts costs to working families," American Benefits Council President James A. Klein concluded. "This data reinforces what voters have said time and time again: don't tax our health care."

The Alliance to Fight the 40 | Don't Tax My Health Care is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, local governments, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-sponsored health coverage. This coverage is the backbone of our health care system and protects over 177 million Americans across the United States. The Alliance seeks to repeal the 40% "Cadillac Tax" on health benefits and work with Congress and the Administration to prevent increased income taxes on workers, families and retirees who rely on employer-sponsored health coverage. The Alliance is committed to ensuring that employer-sponsored coverage remains an effective and affordable option for working Americans and their families.

The American Benefits Council (the Council) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and fostering privately sponsored employee benefit plans. The Council's members are primarily large multistate U.S. employers that provide employee benefits to active and retired workers and their families. The Council's membership also includes organizations that provide employee benefit services to employers of all sizes. Collectively, the Council's members either directly sponsor or provide services to retirement and health plans covering millions of Americans.