



MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: JARRETT LEWIS, PARTNER, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES  
DATE: EMBARGOED UNTIL 4PM EST DECEMBER 11, 2019  
SUBJECT: CADILLAC TAX NATIONAL SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS

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**METHODOLOGY**

On behalf of *Alliance to Fight The 40*, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national online survey of 804 registered voters, November 16-18, 2019. Results from the survey have a confidence interval of  $\pm 3.94$  percentage points.

**KEY FINDINGS**

**Concern over rising health care costs is pervasive among voters across the country and anything that might adversely impact health care costs will not be well received.**

- Americans are equally worried that getting a serious illness would be as financially devastating as losing their job and they believe getting an illness would be more financially devastating than needing a major home or car repair, student loan debt, and getting divorced.
- Two-thirds of Americans with health insurance say their premiums AND out-of-pocket costs have increased over the last few years and just a few have received an increase in wages to offset the spike.
- Two-thirds of Americans worry about being able to pay for their/their family's health care expenses.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of middle-class Americans worry about their family's health care expenses, as do 70% of suburban women.
- One in two Americans say they or someone in their family has delayed/skipped receiving medical care because of rising costs (two-thirds of Americans fear having to make this decision).

**By an *overwhelming* margin (93% - 7%), voters across the country believe employer-provided health insurance should remain tax free.**

- It doesn't matter the subgroup; voters are nearly unanimous in their belief that employer-provided coverage should remain tax free:
  - Men & Women;
  - Republicans, Democrats, & Independents;
  - Voters in states that President Trump won & voters in states that Secretary Clinton won;
  - Voters in HELP majority and minority states & voters in Finance majority and minority states.
- Ninety-seven percent of suburban women, a pivotal group in the 2020 election, believe employer healthcare should remain tax free.

**More than 80% of voters across the country expect a multitude of adverse outcomes if there is a failure to repeal the Cadillac Tax.**

- More than 90% of voters believe a failure to repeal the Cadillac Tax would cause most people with employer-provided coverage to see increases in their premiums, increases in their out-of-pocket costs AND decreases in choice.
- More than 85% of voters believe a failure to repeal the Cadillac Tax would cause an increase in the uninsured rate.
- Again, expectations of these outcomes are party neutral. More than two-thirds of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents believe failing to repeal the Cadillac Tax would lead to increases in premiums, increases in out-of-pocket costs, and decreases in choice.

**Perhaps more impactful for policymakers, majorities of voters across the country would react negatively to the adverse outcomes that would result from a failure to repeal the Cadillac Tax.**

- Two-thirds of voters across the country have a negative reaction to the idea of fewer employers offering health insurance coverage as part of their benefits.
- Two-thirds of voters across the country have a negative reaction to the idea of a spike in out-of-pocket health care costs.
- Two-thirds of voters across the country would react negatively to fewer employers offering health insurance as a benefit and generous health insurance no longer being available to hardworking Americans.

**By more than a two to-one margin, voters across the U.S. would be more likely (52%) to back a member of Congress who votes to repeal the Cadillac Tax than less likely (24%).**

- Majorities of Republicans (57%) and Democrats (51%) would be more likely to back a member of Congress who votes to repeal the Cadillac Tax.
- Two-thirds of Americans would support their member of Congress voting to immediately repeal the Cadillac Tax.

### **Bottom Line**

A majority of individuals with health insurance in the United States receive coverage through an employer. There are 178 million of these individuals and many of them are voters. Health care was the dominant issue of the 2018 midterm elections and is expected to again be at the top of the issue set in 2020. Voters across the country are deeply concerned over rising health care costs and anything that would result more growth in health care costs will simply not be received well by voters across the country.