

January 19, 2021

To: Interested Parties
Fr: ALG Research
Re: Voters Support a Public Health Insurance Option in Connecticut

The results of our recent survey in Connecticut make it clear that there is strong support for a public health insurance option, and that, especially with the pandemic, voters view it as more important than ever to make changes to our current health care system. More than 70% of voters support a public health insurance option that increases access to affordable and dependable health care coverage. Voters, as well as Connecticut small business owners, not only see the public option as good for their personal health care, but also good for the state's economy.

- Overall, **84% of voters in Connecticut believe it is more important that we make changes to our current health care system as a result of COVID-19.** Just 10% of voters overall want the current health care system to stay as-is, and the desire for change extends across ideological, demographic, and partisan lines with just 16% of Republicans, 8% of small business owners, and 7% of residents in Hartford who want things to stay as-is.
- **By more than a 3-to-1 margin voters support a public health insurance option in Connecticut** (71% support; 18% oppose). Small business owners (72% support) and groups that often face disparities when seeking care, such as younger (78%), BIPOC (82%), low income (70%), and voters with only a high school education or less (79%), are among the most supportive. Small business owners are also among those struggling the most with the current state of health care – just 44% believe people in Connecticut currently have good access to quality, affordable care.
- **Voters view a public health insurance option as good for the state's economy and their own care.** By a 15-point margin overall, a 14-point margin among those in Hartford, and a 32-point margin among small business owners, voters believe a public health insurance option would help the state's economy. Additionally, by 41-point margins, voters and small business owners believe a public health insurance option would result in better health care in Connecticut (58% better; 17% worse) and where they work (53% better; 12% worse).
- **A majority of small business owners (61%) and of voters overall (52%) see the greatest benefit of a public health insurance option as bringing down the costs of health care.** Aside from cost, small business owners are also particularly focused on better quality health insurance. Just 4% of the most staunch opponents to a public health insurance option, less than 1% of voters overall, are concerned with how the lower costs will impact insurance and health care companies.

These findings are from a multimodal survey, conducted by ALG Research in Connecticut between December 14-20, 2020 among N=501 registered voters online, and N=100 people of color and N=100 small business owners on the phone.