

September 17, 2021

To: **United States of Care (USofCare)**
Fr: **Molly Murphy, Luke Martin; ALG Research**
Re: **Key Findings from an Online Nationwide Poll**

The results of our recent public opinion research for USofCare clearly demonstrate the top health care concerns and desired solutions that people would like to see implemented.

- **Cost is selected as the single biggest issue facing the health care system today by 69% of voters (71% rural, 69% low-income, 64% people of color).** It remains the driving concern people across demographic, geographic, and ideological spectrums have about health care because it impacts every facet of their experience.
- Nearly every voter agrees (90% agree, 54% strongly; 93% people of color, 89% rural, 89% low-income agree) that the **following four core goals are the right goals for the health care system.** They describe these goals as giving people peace of mind (87%), being an improvement to the health care system (83%), and being reasonable (82%).
 1. People have the certainty that they can afford their health care.
 2. People have the security and freedom that dependable health care coverage provides as life changes.
 3. People can get the personalized care they need, when and how they need it.
 4. People experience a health care system that's understandable and easy to navigate.
- Within each of these goals for the health care system, there are several solutions that stand out as ways to achieve these goals. The following is a sampling of the most preferred solutions:
 - As part of ensuring people have the certainty they can afford their health care, 86% of voters (86% rural, 84% people of color, 83% low-income) support **bringing down prescription costs** by doing things like allowing the government to negotiate prices or increasing competition among drug makers to make it easier and faster to get generics.
 - Within the goal of making sure people have the security and freedom that dependable health care coverage provides as life changes, 78% of voters (80% people of color, 77% rural and low-income) support **ensuring people can receive tax credits to select an affordable health insurance plan** outside of their employer if what the employer provides is too expensive, doesn't cover their needs, or doesn't extend to family members. Also within this goal, 73% of voters (82% people of color, 78% low-income, 71% rural) support expanding eligibility so that more people qualify to get coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
 - Under the goal of people getting the personalized care they need, when and how they need it, 90% of voters (91% rural and low-income, 89% people of color) support **making it easier for people to receive care where they live instead of in long-term care facilities, including by providing support for caregivers who are taking care of sick family members at home.** Also within this goal, 89% of voters (90% people of color, 87% low-income, 85% rural) support expanding the ability to get mental health care by making sure it is covered by health insurance the same as physical health care.

- o And finally, as part of achieving a system that's understandable and easy to navigate, 91% of voters (91% rural, 89% people of color, 86% low-income) -- including 61% strongly -- support **making prescription drug prices more transparent**, including how prices are set and why increases would be needed. Additionally, 82% support (85% rural, 83% people of color, 84% low-income) increasing the availability of trained patient navigators or care coordinators who can help people walk through their health care needs, from picking the right insurance plan to selecting the right treatment options, and identifying how much it would cost.

Select crosstabs:

Nationwide Online Policies (June 27 - Aug 2, 2021)		Total	Party Self-ID		
			Dem	Rep	Ind/DK
Increase availability of trained people, sometimes called “navigators” or “care coordinators”, who can help people walk through their health care needs; from picking the right insurance plan to selecting treatment options, and identifying how much it would cost.’	Strongly support	41%	51%	34%	27%
	Somewhat support	41%	38%	45%	40%
	Total support	82%	89%	79%	67%
	Somewhat oppose	8%	5%	10%	11%
	Strongly oppose	4%	2%	5%	5%
	Total oppose	11%	7%	14%	16%
	Don't know	7%	4%	7%	17%
Bring down prescription costs by doing things like allowing the government to negotiate prices or increasing competition among drug makers to make it easier and faster to get generics.	Strongly support	55%	64%	50%	43%
	Somewhat support	31%	26%	36%	32%
	Total support	86%	90%	86%	76%
	Somewhat oppose	6%	5%	6%	11%
	Strongly oppose	4%	2%	5%	5%
	Total oppose	10%	7%	11%	16%
	Don't know	4%	4%	3%	9%
Expand eligibility so that more people qualify to get coverage through Medicare, Medicaid, or the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP).	Strongly support	40%	54%	27%	28%
	Somewhat support	34%	33%	32%	42%
	Total support	73%	87%	60%	70%
	Somewhat oppose	11%	5%	18%	9%
	Strongly oppose	8%	2%	15%	6%
	Total oppose	20%	8%	33%	15%
	Don't know	7%	5%	7%	15%

Methodology: These findings are from an online survey, conducted with ALG Research July 27 - August 2, 2021 among N=1500 registered voters nationwide - a main sample of N=1000, and an N=500 oversample of people of color, voters with lower incomes, and voters living in rural areas. Overall results were weighted to reflect the composition of registered voters across the country.

Content tested in the survey was informed by over two years of research including four online focus groups conducted between April 28 and 29, 2021 among four audiences: Black/African American, people with lower incomes, people with insurance they are satisfied with, and Republican voters.