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Poll: Facts and Truth Increase Opposition to ObamaCare Medicaid Expansion among Maine Voters

Support Plummets among All Parties after Learning Fiscal, Moral Costs of Medicaid Expansion

MAINE – When Maine voters learn Medicaid expansion raids seniors’ Medicare, cannibalizes funding for critical state priorities and covers former convicts, while leaving vulnerable Mainers languishing on waitlists for services, support for this keystone of ObamaCare plummets among voters of every party, according to a poll released today by Americans for Prosperity-Maine and the multi-state Foundation for Government Accountability.

The 10-question poll was conducted between March 11 and March 24, 2013 by CMS, Inc., an Arlington, Virginia-based polling firm, with 581 Maine voters responding to all 10 questions. The poll has a margin of error of 4.1 percent.

When asked if they support or oppose expanding Maine’s Medicaid program to give taxpayer-funded Medicaid health coverage for up to 100,000 mostly working-age, able-bodied adults with no kids, 44.5 percent of respondents were against expansion, while 37.9 percent indicated their support. Opposition grew after respondents were presented with a series of questions informing respondents of key facts related to the Medicaid expansion.

“The results of this poll confirm why supporters of Medicaid expansion have been so hostile toward efforts to educate Maine patients and taxpayers about the true costs of this ObamaCare scheme,” said Americans for Prosperity Maine State Director Carol Weston. “The more that Maine people know about the dangerous risks of Medicaid expansion, the more their opposition to it grows.”

Other questions in the poll, which referred to actual consequences of ObamaCare’s Medicaid expansion, revealed increasing opposition among respondents from all parties:

Question 3

If you knew Medicaid expansion was mostly paid for by cutting \$716 billion from seniors’ Medicare program, would you be more or less likely to support Medicaid expansion?

Democratic		Republican		Green Independent		Non-Partisan	
More Likely to Support Expansion	26.26%	More Likely to Support Expansion	9.14%	More Likely to Support Expansion	22.73%	More Likely to Support Expansion	10.92%
Less Likely to Support Expansion	50.51%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	73.12%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	68.18%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	64.37%
Does Not Affect Opinion	11.62%	Does Not Affect Opinion	9.14%	Does Not Affect Opinion	9.09%	Does Not Affect Opinion	10.92%
Do Not Know	11.62%	Do Not Know	8.6%	Do Not Know	N/A	Do Not Know	13.79%

BACKGROUND (Not included in poll question):

ObamaCare breaks the Medicare promise to our seniors in order to pay for a new promise of Medicaid expansion and ObamaCare exchange subsidies. ObamaCare assures states that do expand Medicaid eligibility—mostly to working-age, non-disabled adults with no kids—that the federal government will pay 100 percent of their expansion costs from 2014 to 2016 and 90 percent thereafter, indefinitely. The financing for ObamaCare’s Medicaid expansion and exchange subsidies relies on both cuts to seniors’ Medicare and more than \$1 trillion in new taxes. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), \$716 billion will be raided from the Medicare program over the next 10 years.

For more information, see Josh Archambault, “Raiding seniors’ health care for ObamaCare’s Medicaid expansion: ObamaCare breaks the promise of Medicare for seniors to bankroll a Medicaid expansion for able-bodied, childless adults,” Foundation for Government Accountability (2014), <http://uncoverobamacare.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/UO-SaveOurSeniors-final.pdf>.

Question 4

If you knew that almost 1 in 3 Mainers eligible for Medicaid expansion are former prison inmates, would you be more or less likely to support Medicaid expansion?

Democratic		Republican		Green Independent		Non-Partisan	
More Likely to Support Expansion	26.26%	More Likely to Support Expansion	5.91%	More Likely to Support Expansion	4.55%	More Likely to Support Expansion	10.92%
Less Likely to Support Expansion	45.96%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	73.12%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	77.27%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	59.2%
Does Not Affect Opinion	16.16%	Does Not Affect Opinion	12.37%	Does Not Affect Opinion	13.64%	Does Not Affect Opinion	13.22%
Do Not Know	11.62%	Do Not Know	8.6%	Do Not Know	4.55%	Do Not Know	16.67%

BACKGROUND (Not included in poll question):

According to estimates produced by the U.S. Department of Justice, at least 35 percent of the adults made newly eligible for Medicaid by ObamaCare will have a history of involvement in the criminal justice system, including having spent time in jail or prison.

For more information, see U.S. Department of Justice, “Solicitation for a cooperative agreement: Evaluating early access to Medicaid as a reentry strategy,” Federal Register 76(129): 39,438-39,443 (2011), <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-06/pdf/2011-16844.pdf>.

Question 5

If you knew expanding Medicaid in Maine could result in funding cuts to education, infrastructure, public safety and veterans’ benefits, would you be more or less likely to support Medicaid expansion?

Democratic		Republican		Green Independent		Non-Partisan	
More Likely to Support Expansion	25.76%	More Likely to Support Expansion	10.75%	More Likely to Support Expansion	4.55%	More Likely to Support Expansion	11.49%
Less Likely to Support Expansion	46.97%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	73.12%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	72.73%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	66.67%
Does Not Affect Opinion	16.16%	Does Not Affect Opinion	6.45%	Does Not Affect Opinion	18.18%	Does Not Affect Opinion	9.2%
Do Not Know	11.11%	Do Not Know	9.68%	Do Not Know	4.55%	Do Not Know	12.64%

BACKGROUND (Not included in poll question):

Over the past several years, Medicaid spending has far outpaced state revenue growth, leading the program to consume more and more of state budgets. As Medicaid spending grows, investments in education, infrastructure, public safety and other core state priorities inevitably suffer. The Medicaid expansion will increase growth in Medicaid spending, putting other priorities at risk.

For more information, see Richard Ravitch et al., "Report of the State Budget Crisis Task Force: Final report," State Budget Crisis Task Force (2014), http://www.statebudgetcrisis.org/wp-content/images/SBCTF_FINALREPORT.pdf.

Question 6

Maine currently has 3,100 elderly and disabled patients on waitlists for Medicaid services. Expanding Medicaid in Maine could force these patients to wait even longer so working-age, able-bodied adults with no kids could receive Medicaid benefits right away. Knowing this, are you more or less likely to support Medicaid expansion?

Democratic		Republican		Green Independent		Non-Partisan	
More Likely to Support Expansion	30.3%	More Likely to Support Expansion	13.98%	More Likely to Support Expansion	18.18%	More Likely to Support Expansion	17.24%
Less Likely to Support Expansion	43.94%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	70.43%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	45.45%	Less Likely to Support Expansion	59.2%
Does Not Affect Opinion	15.66%	Does Not Affect Opinion	9.68%	Does Not Affect Opinion	27.27%	Does Not Affect Opinion	9.2%
Do Not Know	10.1%	Do Not Know	5.91%	Do Not Know	9.09%	Do Not Know	14.37%

More than 500,000 Americans are currently on waiting lists to receive Medicaid coverage. Many of the individuals on these waiting lists have intellectual or developmental disabilities, traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries, HIV/AIDS, severe mental health problems, mental or physical disabilities and/or are elderly. Medicaid spending that could be used to reduce these waiting lists will instead be used to fund a Medicaid expansion for able-bodied adults.

For more information, see Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, "Waiting lists for Medicaid section 1915(c) home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers," Kaiser Family Foundation (2011), <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/waiting-lists-for-hcbs-waivers-2010>.

A majority of respondents from all parties also indicated they believe Medicaid expansion would drive up their personal health care costs, with 55 percent of Democratic respondents saying their personal health care costs are somewhat or very likely to increase, 78 percent of Republicans, 60 percent of unenrolled voters and 73 percent of Green Independents.

"Facts are a dangerous thing when you are on the wrong side of them," said Foundation for Government Accountability CEO Tarren Bragdon, a former member of the Maine House of Representatives from Bangor. "There is a simple message here that connects with voters regardless of their political affiliation: ObamaCare's Medicaid expansion is wrong for patients, wrong for seniors, wrong for taxpayers and wrong for the state budget."

[CLICK HERE for the full topline and crosstab results of the poll.](#)

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