

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: June 30, 2015
RE: Polling on Repealing the Hyde Amendment

From June 15 to 19, 2015, Hart Research Associates conducted a telephone survey on behalf of All Above All among 950 voters nationwide, including an oversample of voters age 18 to 29 (total of 271). This memorandum presents the key findings from the research.*

1. Public sentiment is strongly and broadly against the underlying tenet of the Hyde Amendment; that is, the idea that the amount of money a woman has should determine her access to healthcare and abortion services.

- Eighty-six percent (86%) of voters agree (including 68% who strongly agree) with the statement *"however we feel about abortion, politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman's health coverage because she is poor."* There is broad consensus on this point across age groups (including 90% of voters age 18 to 34 and 84% of voters 65 and over) and partisanship, with 85% of independents and 79% of Republicans in agreement with 92% of Democrats.
- The belief that a woman's income should not affect her health coverage persists when the health service in question is abortion. Three in four (74%) voters agree that *"as long as abortion is legal, the amount of money a woman has or does not have should not prevent her from being able to have an abortion."* Majorities of Democrats (85%), independents, (75%), and Republicans (62%) agree on this point.
- Seven in 10 voters agree that *"in the long run, it makes good sense that health programs for low-income women cover birth control and abortion—not just childbirth—because when people can plan when to have children, it's good for them and their families."*
- Voters prefer that Medicaid take a non-judgmental, all-inclusive approach to pregnancy care. Two in three (65%) agree with the statement *"we do not always know a woman's circumstances—we're not in her shoes, when Medicaid covers pregnancy care but withholds coverage for abortion, we're taking away a low-income woman's ability to make important, personal decisions based on her circumstances."*

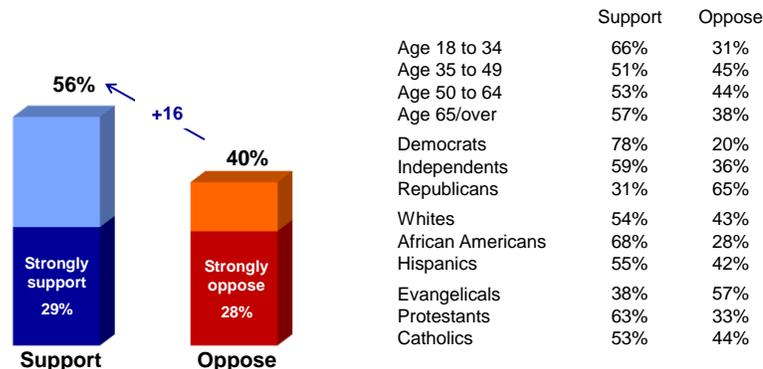
2. A majority of voters support a bill that would require Medicaid to cover all pregnancy-related care, including abortion.

- After hearing that under current federal policy, Congress denies Medicaid coverage for the cost of an abortion, voters support a bill that would require Medicaid to cover all pregnancy-related care, including abortion, by 16 points. More than half (56%) of voters support this bill while 40% oppose it. The bill receives majority support among men (52%) and women (60%) alike, across age groups, and among Democrats (78%) and independents (59%).

Majorities of voters support a bill that would require Medicaid to cover all pregnancy-related care, including abortion.

Information prior to question: "Under current federal policy, if a woman enrolled in the Medicaid health program for low-income people becomes pregnant and decides to carry the pregnancy to term, Medicaid will pay for her pregnancy care and childbirth. Congress currently denies Medicaid coverage for the cost of an abortion. Congress may consider a bill so that a woman enrolled in Medicaid would have all her pregnancy-related healthcare covered by her insurance, including abortion services."

Support for Proposed Bill to Have Medicaid Cover All Pregnancy Healthcare, Including Abortion



3. When presented with arguments for and against requiring Medicaid to cover abortion services, voters fall squarely on the side of protecting a woman's personal decisions.

- The argument that taxpayer dollars should not be used to pay for abortion does not trump the value voters place on women being able to make important, personal decisions. By 17 points, voters are more likely to agree that politicians who say Medicaid can cover childbirth but not abortion are interfering with a woman's personal decisions. Democrats (+56), independents (+28), voters age 18 to 34 (+27), and African Americans (+45) all are especially likely to agree with the statement favoring Medicaid coverage for abortion.

Which statement comes closer to your view?

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| We don't always know a woman's circumstances—we're not in her shoes. When politicians say Medicaid can cover childbirth but ban abortion coverage, they are interfering with a woman's ability to make important, personal decisions based on what is best for her and her family. | 55% |
| Abortion is not healthcare, and we shouldn't use taxpayer dollars to pay for people's mistakes or make it easier to get an abortion. Our focus should be on protecting the unborn. | 38% |

- Similarly, by 24 points, voters are more concerned about politicians denying a woman insurance coverage just because she is poor over using taxpayer dollars to cover abortions.

Which statement comes closer to your view?

However we feel about abortion, politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman insurance coverage for it just because she is poor. 59%

Using taxpayer dollars for abortions forces all of us to pay for them—even people who don't believe in abortion. 35%
