

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: September 12, 2016
RE: Battleground Polling on Repealing the Hyde Amendment

From August 25 to 31, 2016, Hart Research Associates conducted a telephone survey on behalf of All Above All among 1,155 registered voters in 11 battleground states¹, including oversamples of voters age 18 to 34 (total of 376), African Americans (total of 218), and Hispanics (total of 183). This memorandum presents the key findings from the research.*

1. The underlying tenets of the Hyde Amendment run counter to the beliefs of the large majority of battleground voters; that is, voters disagree with the idea that the amount of money a woman has should determine her access to healthcare and abortion services.

- Three in four (76%) battleground voters agree (including 60% who strongly agree) with the statement, "However we feel about abortion, politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman's health coverage for it just because she's poor." There is broad consensus on this point across party lines with 76% of independents, 66% of Republicans and 89% of Democrats in agreement.
- The belief that a woman's income should not affect her health coverage persists when the health service in question is abortion. Seventy-two percent (72%) of battleground voters agree that, "As long as abortion is legal, the amount of money a woman has or doesn't have should not prevent her from being able to have an abortion." Majorities of Democrats (86%), independents, (71%), and Republicans (59%) agree on this point.
- Voters prefer that Medicaid take a nonjudgmental, all-inclusive approach to pregnancy care. Sixty-two percent (62%) of battleground voters 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 what is best for her circumstances."
- There is broad recognition that comprehensive pregnancy care that includes abortion is good for families. Two in three (67%) 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 whether and when to have children, it's good for them and for society as a whole."

¹The battleground states in the sample are Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. States are weighted to their proper proportion relative to the other states in the total sample.

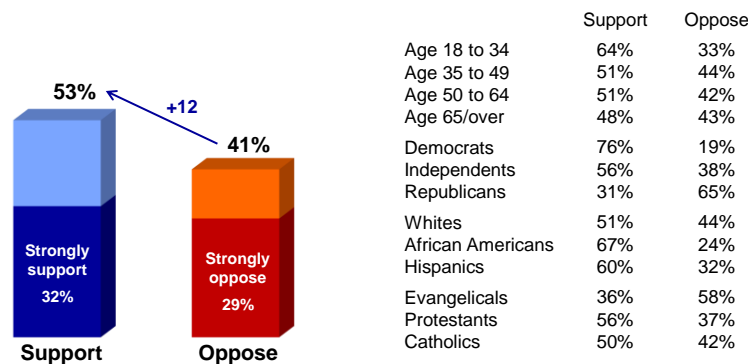
2. A majority of voters support a bill that would require Medicaid to cover all pregnancy-related care, including abortion.

- 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 12 points. More than half (53%) of voters support this bill, while 41% oppose it. Support for the bill outweighs opposition among men (by eight points) and women (by 16 points) alike, across age groups, and among Democrats (by 57 points) and independents (by 18 points).

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 who is 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 that would enable a woman enrolled in Medicaid to 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 put priority on preserving low-income women's access to care over taxpayer dollars.

- The argument that the bill would force taxpayers to fund services that go against their beliefs does not hold up when put in the context that this would result in denying a woman coverage just because she is poor. By 19 points, voters are more concerned about politicians denying a woman insurance coverage just because she is poor than about 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.	54%
Using taxpayer dollars for abortions forces all of us to pay for them—even people who don't believe in abortion.	35%

4. Millennial voters and voters of color in battleground states are among the strongest potential allies for repealing the Hyde Amendment.

- Sentiment against the underlying tenets of the Hyde Amendment is especially strong among Millennials, African Americans, and Hispanics. These voters are more likely than battleground voters overall to agree with each of the following statements:

Proportion of voters who agree with each statement				
	Voters overall	18 to 34 year olds	African Americans	Hispanics
However we feel about abortion, politicians should not be allowed to deny a woman's health coverage for it just because she's poor.	76%	83%	81%	75%
As long as abortion is legal, the amount of money a woman has or doesn't have should not prevent her from being able to have an abortion.	71%	79%	78%	67%
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 whether and when to have children, it's good for them and for society as a whole.	67%	75%	78%	74%
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 what is best for her circumstances.	62%	68%	78%	71%

- Solid majorities of Millennials and voters of color support a bill that would repeal the Hyde Amendment. Compared to battleground voters overall (53%), larger majorities of Millennials (64%), African Americans (67%), and Hispanics (60%) support a bill that would require Medicaid to cover all pregnancy-related care, including abortion.