



MOORE INFORMATION

OPINION RESEARCH • STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

March 1, 2007

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Bob Moore and Hans Kaiser

RE: Americans' Priorities for Congress: Health Care and the Economy

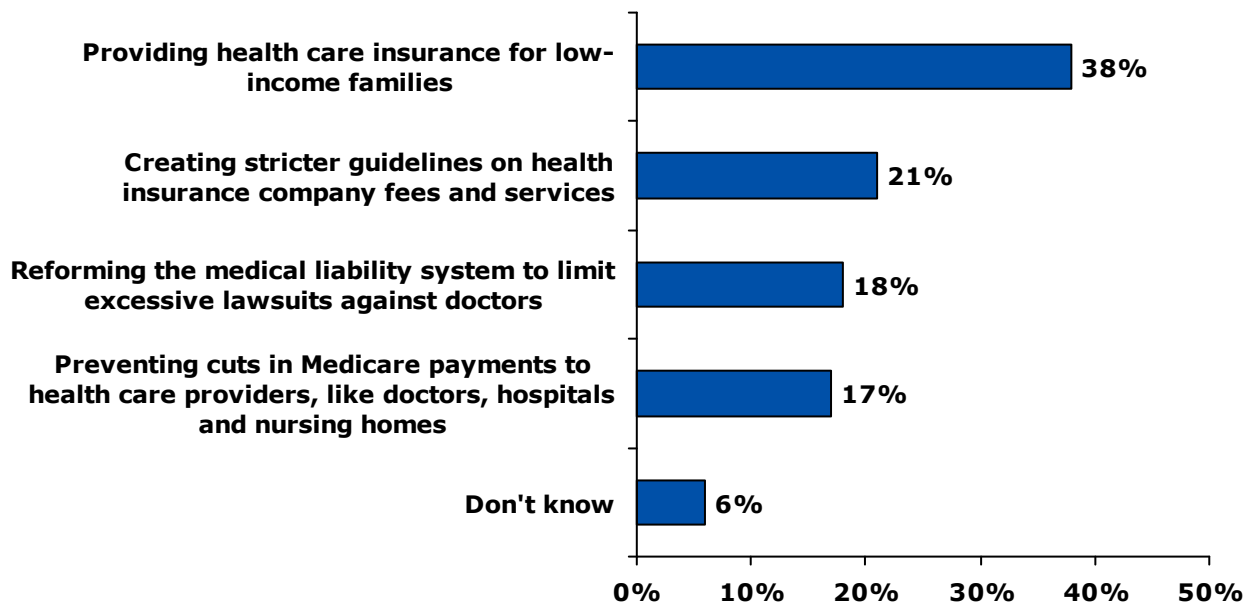
As the end of the First 100 Days of the 110th Congress draws near, we thought it would be a good time to check in with voters to gauge their priorities on two major issue fronts – health care and the economy.

Health Care

In our national poll of 800 registered voters nationwide, we asked which of four health care approaches should be given the highest priority by their member of Congress. Here is what we learned:

Congressional Health Care Priority

"In your opinion, which one of the following health care issues is most important for your member of Congress to address?"



- Highest priority, for a plurality of Americans, is to “provide health care to low-income families” (38% cite this as their top health care priority)
- At the same time, the health care priorities for the balance of Americans are divided among the three other choices we provided, including:
 - ✓ Creating stricter guidelines on health insurance company fees and services (21%)
 - ✓ Reforming the medical liability system to limit excessive lawsuits against doctors (18%)
 - ✓ Preventing cuts in Medicare payments to health care providers (17%)

As would be expected, voters’ priorities for our health care system are driven by a variety of demographic factors.

Providing health care to low-income families (38%) – While this is considered highest priority among most voter subgroups, there were a few groups that stood out as having heightened interest in this particular area, including:

- Voters age 18-29
- Democrats, especially “strong” Democrats (those who vote mostly or only for Democrats) and self-described “Liberal” Democrats
- Voters in the lowest income bracket (<\$30K per year annual household income)
- Single moms
- Minority voters

Creating stricter guidelines on health insurance company fees (21%) – This reform component does not surface as the “top” priority among any subgroup in our sample, although it is the preferred choice of more than one-in-five American voters.

Reforming the medical liability system to limit excessive lawsuits against doctors (18%) - While this particular element of health care reform may not receive attention in this Congress, it is nonetheless a top priority for 18% of American voters. Partisanship, rather than demographics, is the driving force behind support for this type of reform. Specifically, the following groups give medical liability reform higher priority than insuring low-income Americans:

- “Very” Conservative Republicans
- Republican men
- Republicans age 18-54

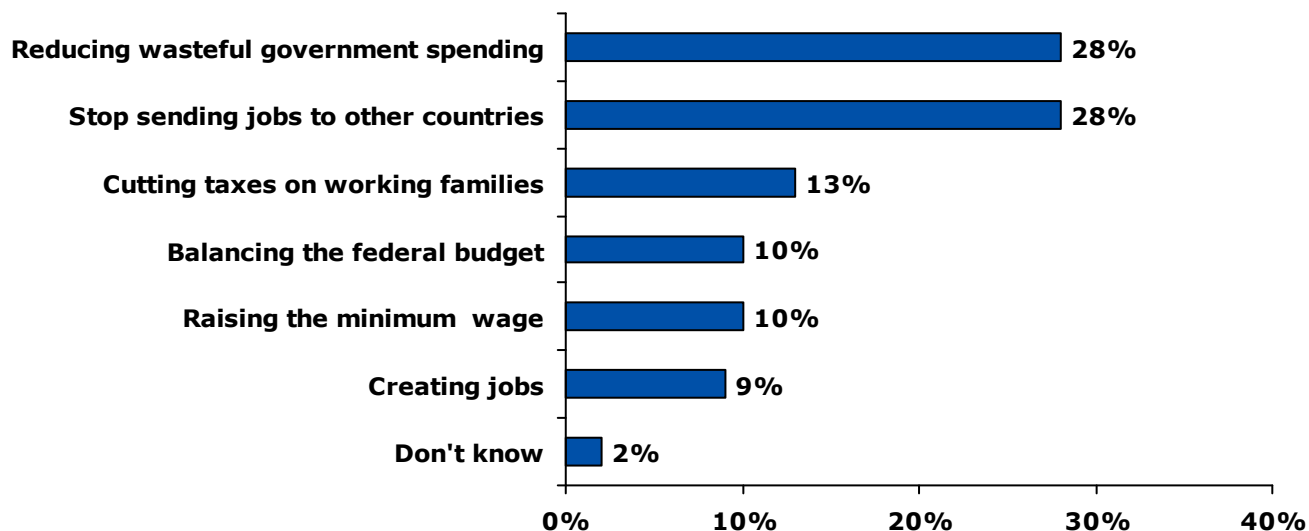
Additionally, respondents who voted for Bush in 2006 give equal priority to medical liability reform and insuring low-income Americans.

Preventing cuts to Medicare payments to health care providers (17%) – This component of health care reform does not generate significant variations by subgroup; however, senior men (age 65+) give this the same level priority as insuring low-income Americans.

Improving the Economy

Congressional Economic Priority

"And which one of the following economic issues is most important for your member of Congress to address?"



The nation has seemingly turned the corner and most economic indicators suggest that our economy is growing at a steady pace. Our survey asked voters to prioritize the economic focus for the next Congress. To this we find that of six economic issues tested, voters believe reducing government waste and stopping American jobs from being sent overseas are the two most important issues for Congress to address (28% each). Interestingly, beyond these two leading issues tested, there is a significant drop-off in enthusiasm for four other economic issues, including tax cuts for working families (13%), raising the minimum wage (10%), balancing the federal budget (10%) and creating jobs (9%). The relatively low level of interest in minimum wage hikes is interesting, given the fact that this has been a major push from the new Democrat Congress in 2007. Clearly, Americans have a different idea about economic priorities for Congress.

Taking a closer look at voters' priorities for boosting the national economy, we find some inconsistencies within both the Democrat and Republican electorates. For example, "strong" GOPs believe the top priority is reducing waste, but "soft" GOPs are divided between stopping the flow of jobs overseas and reducing waste. Additionally, Republican men and Conservative Republicans are more likely to place top priority on cutting waste than any other issue. Likewise, among Democrats, the "strong" Democrats are most concerned about keeping jobs here in the states, while "soft" Democrats are equally concerned with keeping jobs here and cutting waste.

Some other interesting variations are seen with regard to education level, as outsourcing overseas is a much larger concern for those with 0-12 years education than it is among those with additional years of education.

The minimum wage, while at the bottom of the priority list overall, is most likely to generate interest among voters who have never been married, voters age 18-29, and voters in the lowest income bracket (<\$30K annual household income).

Tax cuts are primarily an ideological/partisan issue. While not the leading priority among any subgroup, those most likely to choose tax cuts as the top priority are Republicans age 18-54 and self-described "very" Conservative GOPs.

These data are from a telephone survey conducted by Moore Information, Inc. February 6-8, 2007 among a representative sample of 800 voters nationwide. The potential sampling error is plus or minus 3% at the 95% confidence level. (Party affiliation of the sample is 36% Republican, 42% Democrat, 22% non-affiliated.)

Moore Information is a premier opinion research and strategic analysis firm specializing in politics, government and public affairs. We offer our clients and friends insight and information on key issues and measurements on a regular basis, sharing our interpretations and strategic analyses of the data. If you wish to receive additional information regarding this Moore Insight or receive future Moore Insights, please contact us at www.moore-info.com/contactus.

To view previous Moore Insights, please go to www.moore-info.com/mooreinsights