

NEW DATA: Support Levels For Prescription Drug Price Reforms In Every State And Every Congressional District

9 Out Of 10 Voters Support Allowing Medicare To Negotiate; 6 Out Of 10 Voters Have An Unfavorable View Of Drug Companies

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As Congress works on a budget plan that includes giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices, a new project shows the overwhelming, bipartisan support for this reform in each of the 435 districts in Congress and all 50 states in the U.S. Senate.

The district-by-district and state-by-state support levels are available for lawmakers and constituents in this new interactive map [here](#). The project was conducted by Data for Progress on behalf of Protect Our Care and Patients For Affordable Drugs Now.

In every district and every state, constituents and lawmakers can now find out the support for reform, opinions about the pharmaceutical companies, concerns about congressional action, and belief in pharma's top arguments.

The nationally representative survey of 4,222 likely voters shows that:

- Almost 9 out of 10 (86%) back reforms that give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices;
- More than 8 out of 10 (81%) believe prescription drug costs are “unreasonable”;
- Only 12% believe pharma's argument that letting Medicare negotiate lower prices will harm innovation while 81% believe the reforms will lower prices without harming innovation and development.

Using the large sample and a sophisticated computer modeling program, support levels have been modeled for all 50 states and 435 congressional districts, and can be viewed [here](#). The Data for Progress team used advanced modeling techniques known as MRP (or multilevel regression with poststratification) to estimate support at the congressional district and state level. More on methodology can be found on [the website](#).

For example, the support level for allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices is 90% in Arizona and 91% in New Jersey. In CA-52, 81% believe that Medicare can negotiate lower prices without harming innovation, and in FL-07, 70% are more worried that Congress won't do enough to lower drug prices instead of worrying that Congress will do too much.

“This issue has been litigated in the court of public opinion for years now, and even in the midst of a pandemic, voters are clear: They want Medicare to negotiate lower prices on behalf of Americans,” said David Mitchell, a patient with an incurable blood cancer whose drugs carry a list price of more than \$900,000 per year and founder of Patients For Affordable Drugs Now. “Patients and consumers are hurting, too often having to choose between paying outrageous

prices for their drugs or covering costs of other necessities. We support Congress and the Biden administration as they act to end this injustice in America.”

“Americans pay more for prescription drugs than anyone in the world. Big Pharma’s greed knows no bounds, and Americans from all walks of life are hurting from skyrocketing costs,” said Protect Our Care Executive Director Brad Woodhouse. “The new polling from Data for Progress confirms that voters are fed up with the status quo and demanding action from their elected officials. It is imperative that Congress give Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices for all Americans — any lawmaker that tries to stand in the way is on the wrong side of this issue and on the wrong side of their constituents.”

“These numbers make it abundantly clear that voters want prescription drug price reforms,” said Sean McElwee, Executive Director at Data for Progress. “With strong support for allowing Medicare to negotiate to lower drug prices and the belief among voters that prescription drug prices are unreasonable, it’s clear that Congress must act to make these changes.”

The survey found that by more than a 2-to-1 margin, voters are more concerned that Congress won’t do enough to rein in the cost of prescription drugs than that Congress will go too far in restraining prices.

This new poll comes as the Senate Finance Committee is drafting legislation that would allow Medicare to negotiate, which would deliver on the president’s Build Back Better plan. The House of Representatives will begin marking up the reconciliation package, including a version of its Medicare negotiation legislation, H.R. 3, this week.

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Patients For Affordable Drugs Now is the only independent national patient organization focused exclusively on policy changes to lower prescription drug prices. It does not accept funding from any organizations that profit from the development or distribution of prescription drugs.

Protect Our Care has been at the center of the health care fight since 2017, first defending the ACA from the Trump Administration and now fighting for the simple right of every American to get access to the affordable health care they need. Protect Our Care plays a vital role in the broader health care community as the go-to source for polling, message development, communications, and key state media and coalition building.

Data for Progress is a progressive think tank and polling firm, which arms movements with data-driven tools to fight for a more equitable future. DFP provides polling, data-based messaging, and policy generation for the progressive movement, and advises campaigns and candidates with the tools they need to win. DFP polling is regularly cited by The New York Times, The Washington Post, MSNBC, CBS News, and hundreds of other trusted news organizations. Learn more at dataforprogress.org or follow DFP on Twitter at @dataprogess.