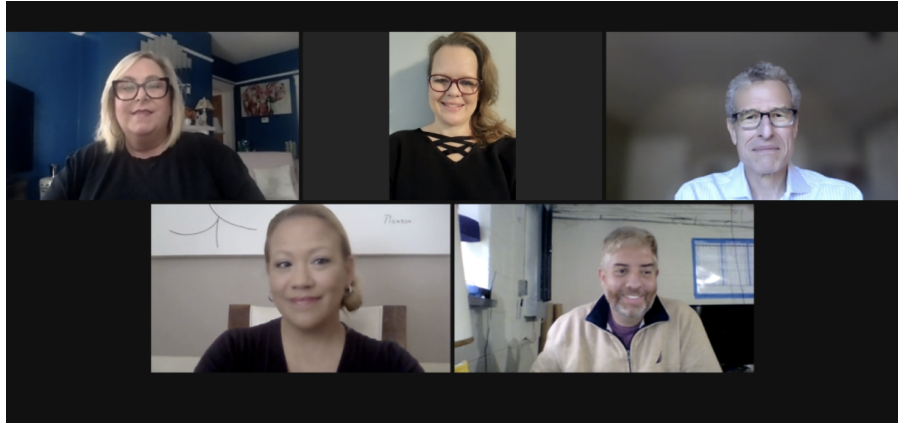


PROTECT OUR CARE

**** Weekly Wrap Up ****

[October 9 - October 15, 2021]



Protect Our Care Chair Leslie Dach joined local advocates in West Virginia to call on Congress to lower prescription drug prices.

MEMO: Widespread Support in Key States for Medicare Negotiations to Lower Drug Prices, Other Key Health Provisions, and the Overall Build Back Better Plan

Four new Public Policy Polling surveys conducted among voters in Arizona, Delaware, New Jersey, and West Virginia find strong bipartisan support for the key reforms to health care that are part of the Build Back Better Plan that will lower drug costs and insurance premiums, expand Medicare benefits, and increase coverage.

Overwhelming majorities of voters across party lines in each state support giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower prescription drug prices.

- 73% of Arizona voters, 74% of West Virginia voters, 77% of New Jersey voters, and 78% of Delaware voters say they support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, with a majority in each state saying they strongly support it.
 - This includes support from a majority across party lines, including 65-74% of independents and 63-74% of Republicans.

- An overwhelming majority of voters (ranging from 85% in New Jersey to 92% in West Virginia) say they think the price of prescription drugs is too high, while just 4-9% think they are “about right.”
- Opposing Medicare negotiations for drug prices could have political consequences for each state’s elected officials. A plurality of voters (ranging from 39% in New Jersey and West Virginia to 45% in Arizona) say they are less likely to vote for their senator in the next election if they oppose Medicare having the power to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices. Just 17-20% say they would be more likely to support them.
- An overwhelming majority of voters in each state (ranging from 83% in New Jersey to 88% in Delaware) support making sure that Americans do not pay more for the same prescription drugs than what people pay in other countries, while just 4-6% oppose it. Those in support include 80-84% of independents and 80-85% of Republicans.
- A majority of voters in each state (ranging from 68% in Arizona to 77% in New Jersey) say they agree more that we should allow Medicare to negotiate with drug companies to make drugs and medication more affordable to patients.
- Voters reject the drug company argument that giving Medicare the power to negotiate will undermine innovations. Just 7-11% agree more with the drug company argument that by letting Medicare dictate prescription drug prices, drug companies’ ability to innovate and develop new drugs will be undercut.

Voters are also supportive of the other benefits the Build Back Better plan would offer for health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid:

- 59% of Arizona voters, 63% of West Virginia voters, 66% of New Jersey voters, and 70% of Delaware voters support a plan in Congress to lower the health insurance costs for people who buy insurance on their own by expanding tax credits and subsidies. Just 9-19% overall are opposed. Like many of the previous initiatives, this attracts bipartisan support, including 56-61% of Republican voters and 52-64% of independents.
- 79% of Arizona voters, 81% of West Virginia voters, 84% of New Jersey voters, and 86% of Delaware voters support policies to lower drug costs after hearing that savings from lower drug prices would be used to provide health care benefits for hearing, dental, and vision to seniors on Medicare, and lower insurance premiums for millions more. Supporters include 76-85% of Republicans and 71-82% of independents.
- 56% of Arizona voters, 64% of West Virginia voters, 67% of New Jersey voters, and 70% of Delaware voters support giving low- and moderate-income Americans, including seniors, children, and people who do not get insurance at work, the opportunity to get health insurance at little or no cost if their state does not offer coverage under Medicaid. Just 13-21% are opposed. Supporters include a plurality or majority of independents (48-62%) and Republicans (41-58%).

A majority of voters in all four states (ranging from 57% in West Virginia to 70% in Delaware) say they support the overall Build Back Better plan, which would provide paid family and medical leave, expand Medicare coverage for seniors including dental, vision, and hearing coverage, and lower health care costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 709 Arizona voters on behalf of Protect Our Care from October 8-9, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 3.7%. 52% of interviews for the survey were conducted by text message and 48% by telephone.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 782 Delaware voters on behalf of Protect Our Care from October 8-10, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 3.5%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 720 New Jersey voters on behalf of Protect Our Care from October 8-10, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 3.7%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 960 West Virginia voters on behalf of Protect Our Care from October 8-9, 2021. The margin of error is +/- 3.2%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

Protect Our Care Urges Senators Carper and Coons to Stand Up for Patients and Lower Drug Costs with New Delaware Poll, Radio Ad

[Listen to the Radio Ad Here](#)

[Full Poll Results and Memo Here](#)

Protect Our Care announced a new radio ad calling on Delawareans to tell U.S. Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Chris Coons (D-DE) that they expect their support for giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices. The ad comes as Protect Our Care is releasing a new poll conducted by Public Policy Polling showing that 78% of Delaware voters say they support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, with more than 6 in 10 saying they strongly support it. The poll also shows that a large majority (70%) of Delaware voters also say they support the overall Build Back Better plan, which would provide paid family and medical leave, expand Medicare coverage for seniors including dental, vision, and hearing coverage, and lower health care costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.

As Congress is closing in on legislation that will transform the lives of American families nationwide, the new poll and radio ad make clear that Delawareans won't settle for half-measures and that Senators Carper's and Coon's votes are key to passing prescription drug pricing reform. President Biden and Democrats are leading the charge to include Medicare negotiation and other key health care priorities in the Build Back Better bill, but the fight is not over: Big Pharma is ramping up its lobbying and scare tactics to protect its profits and lie to the American people. Senators Carper and Coons must meet the demands of their constituents and give Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices for all Americans.

"Delawareans are fed up with the broken system that allows drug companies to charge them three times more for medications than people in other countries," said Protect Our Care

Chair Leslie Dach. “Delawareans are counting on Senators Coons and Carper to put working families over drug company profits by giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices. With Republicans marching in lockstep with Big Pharma, every Democrat needs to get on board and help pass the Build Back Better Act so millions of Americans no longer have to worry about affording the medications they need to survive.”

Ad Script (60s):

Families here in Delaware pay 3 times more than people in other countries for the same life-saving medicines.

It's not right.

94 percent of Americans want Congress to lower drug prices now.

Your Senators Chris Coons and Tom Carper are key votes. They get to decide whether big drug companies get to keep the rigged system that lets them charge as much as they want OR we put an end to that and give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices.

Too many families have to choose between paying their rent or paying for their medicine.

It shouldn't be this way and it doesn't have to be.

Giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs would be life changing for patients.

Call Senators Coons and Carper. Tell them we need them to stand with Delaware patients

Delaware families need this Build Back Better act that gives Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices.

Paid for by Protect Our Care.

Protect Our Care Calls On Lawmakers to Keep Up the Fight for Health Care Reform Through Nationwide Events

Protect Our Care continued its events and activities calling on members of Congress to pass all of President Biden's health care priorities in the Build Back Better Act. Democrats are continuing to negotiate a final budget agreement that will give Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices, extend coverage to millions by closing the Medicaid coverage gap, expand Medicare benefits to include vision, dental and hearing, and reduce health care costs for millions of people purchasing coverage on their own. New polling released this week from Public Policy Polling on behalf of Protect Our Care confirms these proposals are overwhelmingly popular among voters in key states.

Through press events, radio ads, and polling, Protect Our Care continued to convey that President Biden's health care priorities are among the most consequential policies to

Americans' health and well-being and remain central to the popularity of the Build Back Better package. Protect Our Care will continue to ensure that lawmakers understand the importance of lowering drug prices and expanding care leading up to the final passage of the Build Back Better Act.

ARIZONA

PRESS EVENT: U.S. Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07) and local advocates joined Protect Our Care Arizona for a virtual press conference to highlight how the efforts of President Biden and Democrats in Congress will lower costs and expand access to health care in Arizona and across the country. Advocates also discussed new polling on behalf of Protect Our Care that shows 73% of Arizonans across party lines support giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices.



[Watch the Event Here.](#)

NEW POLL: Public Policy Polling released a new poll on behalf of Protect Our Care showing 73% of Arizona voters say they support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, with 61% saying they strongly support it. A majority (59%) of Arizonans also say they support the overall Build Back Better plan, which would provide paid family and medical leave, expand Medicare coverage for seniors including dental, vision, and hearing coverage, and lower health care costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.

[Full Poll Results and Memo Here.](#)

RADIO AD: Protect Our Care extended its radio ad calling for Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) to meet the demands of her constituents and support giving Medicare the power to negotiate

with drug companies for lower prices. The ad features Will Humble, the Executive Director for the Arizona Public Health Association, who explains that Arizonans pay three times more for drugs than people in other countries while Big Pharma continues to rake in record profits and hike prices on Americans.

[Listen to the Radio Ad Here](#)

CALIFORNIA

PRESS EVENT: Dr. Arnold Gass, VA physician and professor at UCSD, Rachelle Compton, nurse and constituent of Rep. Scott Peters, Dr. Seth Fischer, resident at UC San Diego Health, and Bryant Miramontes, Senior Campaign Organizer at Health Access California, joined Protect Our Care California for an event to call on Rep. Scott Peters (CA-52) to stand up to Big Pharma and bring relief to San Diegans struggling to afford their medications by giving Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies for lower prices.



[Watch the Event Here.](#)

PLANE: Protect Our Care flew a plane banner over San Diego urging Rep. Scott Peters to support lowering drug prices by giving Medicare the power to negotiate. The event came as constituents and activists held multiple events in his district on Thursday urging the Congressman to do the right thing and pass the Build Back Better Act.



DELAWARE

RADIO AD: On Wednesday, Protect Our Care announced a new radio ad calling on Delawareans to tell U.S. Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Chris Coons (D-DE) that they expect their support for giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices. As Congress is closing in on legislation that will transform the lives of American families nationwide, the radio ad makes clear that Delawareans won't settle for half-measures and that Senators Carper's and Coon's votes are key to passing prescription drug pricing reform.

[Listen to the Radio Ad Here.](#)

NEW POLL: Protect Our Care released a new poll conducted by Public Policy Polling showing that 78% of Delaware voters say they support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, with more than 6 in 10 saying they strongly support it. The poll also shows that a large majority (70%) of Delaware voters also say they support the overall Build Back Better plan.

[Full Poll Results and Memo Here.](#)

NEW JERSEY

NEW POLL: New polling from Public Policy Polling on behalf of Protect Our Care showed 77% of New Jersey voters say they support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, with 61% saying they strongly support it. A majority (68%) of New Jersey voters also say they support the overall Build Back Better plan.

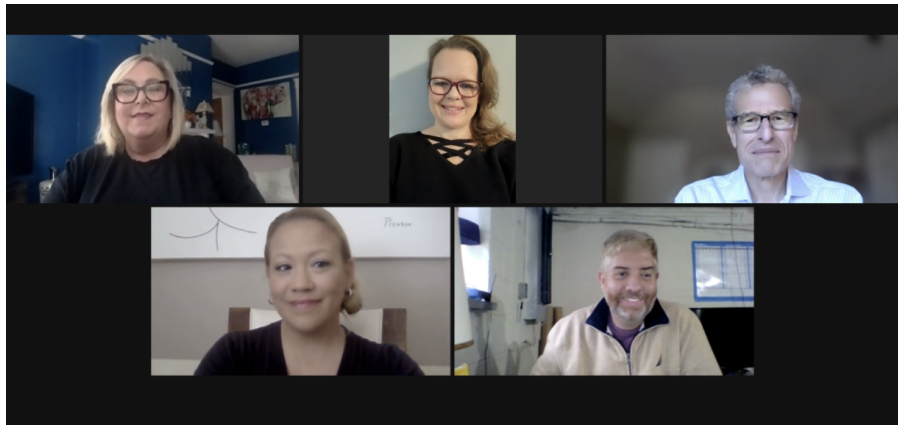
[Full Poll Results and Memo Here.](#)

Coverage:

- **NJ Spotlight News: [NJ voters who support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices](#)**

WEST VIRGINIA

PRESS EVENT: Morgantown resident and Type 1 diabetic Mindy Salango, Executive Director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care Dr. Jessica Ice, Protect Our Care Chair Leslie Dach and local advocates joined Protect Our Care West Virginia for a virtual event to call on Congress to stand up to Big Pharma and bring relief to West Virginians struggling to afford their medications by giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices. New polling on behalf of Protect Our Care shows that 74% of West Virginians across party lines support giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices.



[Watch the Event Here.](#)

NEW POLL: Public Policy Polling released a [new poll](#) on behalf of Protect Our Care showing 74% of West Virginia voters say they support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, with 56% saying they strongly support it. A majority (57%) of West Virginians also say they support the overall Build Back Better plan.

[Full Poll Results and Memo Here.](#)

RADIO AD: Protect Our Care extended its [radio ad](#) calling for U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) to meet the demands of his constituents and fight for giving Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices. The ad features Mindy Salango, a Morgantown resident who suffers from Type I diabetes, explaining that giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower prices is the solution to the broken drug pricing system.

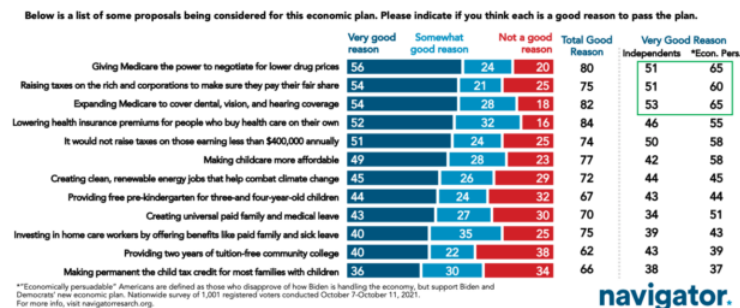
[Listen to the Radio Ad Here](#)

NAVIGATOR: Voters Say Health Care Provisions are the Most Important Part of Build Back Better

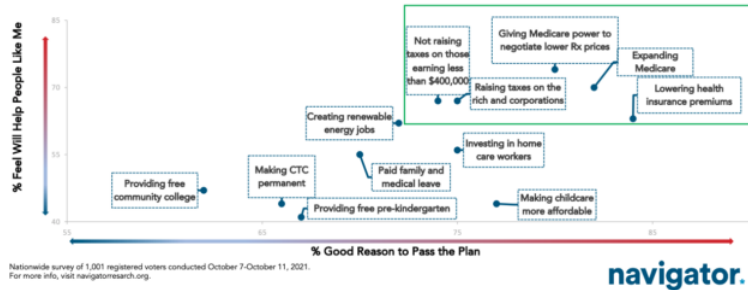
New polling from Navigator released today confirms that health care is the most popular part of President Biden's Build Back Better Act. The poll found that voters believe that the measures to lower drug costs, expand Medicare, and make premiums more affordable are the top reasons Congress should pass the Build Back Better Act, and they think these are the policies that will help them most personally.

A closer look at the results:

Voters Agree the Best Reasons to Pass Build Back Better Are Medicare Negotiation for Lower Drug Prices, Expanding Medicare, and Reducing the Cost of Health Insurance. When it comes to policies that affect them directly, voters say giving Medicare the power to negotiate, expanding Medicare benefits, and making insurance more affordable are the best reasons to pass the plan.



Lowering Health Care Costs and Health Insurance Premiums and Expanding Medicare Are Seen as the Most Personally Helpful Policies in Build Back Better. According to Navigator: “Half of respondents were asked to rate how good of reasons a list of policies from Biden’s new plan were to pass it, while the other half were asked the same but about ‘helping people like me.’ Raising taxes on the rich and not the middle class, lowering drug prices and healthcare premiums, and expanding Medicare top both lists.”



STATEMENT: Big Drop: Jobless Claims Fall Below 300,000 For the First Time Since the Beginning of the Pandemic

In response to the latest weekly first-time jobless claims plunging to a pandemic low of 293,000, Protect Our Care Executive Director Brad Woodhouse issued the following statement:

“Today’s news of weekly jobless claims reaching a pandemic-era low affirms President Biden’s policies to boost the economy are working. By passing the American Rescue Plan, Democrats delivered direct stimulus checks, housing assistance and monthly child tax credit payments to families, billions in state and local aid to keep essential workers on the job, and robust funding for vaccine distribution to deliver a successful vaccine rollout.

“By now promoting vaccine mandates and booster shots, the Biden administration continues to work to get shots in arms so even more people can go back to work and more American families are safe. With hundreds of thousands of Americans getting vaccinated every day and the economy bouncing back to pre-pandemic levels, it is clear that better days are ahead thanks to the leadership of President Biden and Democrats in Congress.”

Governors Abbott and DeSantis Crowned Worst Governors Of The Week on Coronavirus

Across the country this week, Republican Governors reached new lows, pushed conspiracy theories, picked fights with Dr. Fauci and President Biden, and sabotaged proven effective measures like mask and vaccine mandates that would keep their states safe from the Coronavirus. These pathetic tactics are all part of an attempt to distract from their damaging track records and mishandling of the pandemic. Governors DeSantis (FL), Abbott (TX) have been particularly damaging to their states as they continue to trade the safety and wellbeing of their constituents in order to pander to their fringe base.

DeSantis and Abbott should tread carefully. As midterms approach, voters have made it clear that coronavirus is top of mind when they head to the ballot box. Moreover, the Associated Press recently reported that a majority of Americans approve of Biden's handling of COVID-19, with two-thirds of Americans trusting that vaccines will be effective against virus variants.

Here's a glimpse of some of their worst offenses from this week:

In Florida...

Governor DeSantis recently appointed Dr. Joseph Ladapo to the position of General Surgeon--an extremist who has peddled dangerous misinformation, pushed quack cures like hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin and called masks a "distraction."

Recent reports now state that Lapado will bring home a \$362,000 paycheck each year, a massive increase from his predecessor and a slap in the face to Floridians who are facing economic hardships due to the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Florida recently passed the 50,000 death toll due to the pandemic, with reports that kids were getting sicker after heading back to school a few weeks ago, no thanks to DeSantis and Ladapo sabotaging mask mandates that would save their lives.

In Texas...

Governor Abbott issued an executive order yesterday, banning "any entity" in the state from enforcing a vaccine mandate. This move is a direct contradiction from the popular and protective move by President Biden to require vaccines for workers at companies with 100 employees or more.

Meanwhile, this headline says it all: The Guardian: Texas governor bars vaccine mandates in state as deaths approach 70,000

In The States

Clips

NJ Spotlight News: Number of the Day: 77%: NJ voters who support giving Medicare the power to lower prescription drug prices

Local Headlines

Alaska

- Anchorage Daily News: [Anchorage Assembly Passes Revised Emergency Ordinance Requiring Masks, Effective Immediately](#)

Arizona

- KPVI: [Poll: Arizonans Largely Support Government Negotiating Medicare Drug Prices](#)

Arkansas

- AP: [Arkansas Governor OKs Bill Allowing Vaccine Mandate Opt-Outs](#)

California

- AP: [Judge Blocks Vaccination Mandate For California Prisons](#)
- San Francisco Chronicles: [These Charts Show The Incredibly Stark Difference In Covid-19 Death Rates Between Vaccinated And Unvaccinated In California](#)

Colorado

- Bloomberg: [Colorado Covid Hospitalizations Rising Even With High Job Rate](#)

Florida

- Bloomberg: [Vaccines Could Have Saved 22,000 Lives In Texas And Florida, Researchers Say](#)
- NBC News: [Florida Fines County \\$3.5 Million For Requiring Proof Of Vaccination](#)

Hawaii

- Benefits Pro: [Hawaii Asks Health Plans For More Transparency On Gender Transition Benefits](#)

Louisiana

- New Orleans Times-Picayune: [New Covid Variant Detected In Louisiana; It's Not An Imminent Threat, Health Officials Say](#)

Maryland

- Washington Post: [Nursing Home Staff In Maryland Have Been Required To Get Vaccinated For More Than A Month](#)

Massachusetts

- The Boston Globe: [Mass. Reports 1,901 New Coronavirus Cases Among Public School Students And 337 Among Staff](#)

Michigan

- Detroit Free Press: [K-12 Schools Without Mask Mandates In Michigan Saw 62% More Coronavirus Spread](#)

Mississippi

- AP: [Thousands Protest Vaccine Mandates At Mississippi Rallies](#)

Missouri

- KSDK: [She Battled The State For Medicaid And Won](#)
- NPR: [Missouri Hospital Leaders Hopeful As 275,000 Residents Are Finally Covered By Medicare Expansion](#)
- Southeast Missourian: [More Missourians Sign Up For Medicaid Expansion](#)

- PBS Newshour: Missouri's Medicaid Expansion Aims To Benefit Low-Income Workers, But Sign-Ups Still Lag

Montana

- CBS News: "Do We Need To Ration Care?": Covid Patients Overwhelm Montana Hospitals

New York

- Bloomberg: NYC's Covid Vaccine Mandate Isn't Biased Against Black And Hispanic New Yorkers, Judge Rules

North Carolina

- AP: Nearly All State Health Workers Vaccinated In North Carolina
- WNCT: Medicaid Remains Sticking Point Between GOP, Dems In NC's Budget

Ohio

- NBC News: Major Hospital Systems In Ohio Requiring Covid Vaccinations For Organ Transplants

Oregon

- AP: September Marks New Peak Of Oregon Covid-19 Deaths

Texas

- Bloomberg: White House Slams Texas Governor's Ban On Covid Vaccine Mandates
- Bloomberg: Vaccines Could Have Saved 22,000 Lives In Texas And Florida, Researchers Say
- CNBC: US Secretary Of Education Says Texas Gov. Abbott Is Wrong To Ban Covid Vaccine Mandate
- Wall Street Journal: Covid-19 Vaccine Mandate Fight Between Texas And Biden Has Companies Caught In The Meeting
- Washington Post: Ban On Vaccine Mandates In Texas Sharpens Political Battle Lines

Washington

- AP: Most State Workers WA Hospital Staff Vaccinated For Covid
- AP: Vaccine Proof Or Negative Test Soon Required At Large Events