

HEALTH CARE

# Support for Senate's Version of Health Care Bill Plummetts in United States

*A majority of Americans predict an increase in the cost of health care if the proposed bill becomes law.*

[NEW YORK – Feb. 19, 2010] – Public support for the proposed reform of the health care system continues to erode in the United States, with a majority of Americans expecting the latest bill to increase the cost of medical services in the country, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,004 American adults, 28 per cent of respondents support the Senate's version of the health care reform bill, while 46 per cent oppose it. Since early January, support for the Senate's bill has dropped by eight points, while opposition has increased by seven points.

The Senate's health care reform bill lost ground across the political spectrum, with Independents (25%, -7), Republicans (8%, -9) and Democrats (47%, -14) all less inclined to voice support.

## Quality and Cost

Almost three-in-five Americans (58%) believe the cost of health care in America will increase if the bill becomes law, a nine-point increase since January. Also, 45 per cent of respondents believe the quality of health care in America will worsen if the bill becomes law, up seven points since early January.

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## KEY FINDINGS

- **28% (-8) support the Senate's version of the health care reform bill; 46% (+7) oppose it**
- **45% (+7) believe the quality of health care in America will worsen if this bill becomes law**
- **58% (+9) think the cost of health care in America will increase if this bill becomes law**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From February 16 to February 17, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,004 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.*

## CONTACT:

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<b>Health Care</b>				
How closely have you followed the recent debate over the future of the health care system in America?				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
<b>Very closely</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Moderately closely</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Not too closely</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Not closely at all</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>4%</b>

<b>Health Care</b>			
How closely have you followed the recent debate over the future of the health care system in America?			
	<b>February 2010</b>	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>November 2009</b>
<b>Very closely</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Moderately closely</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Not too closely</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Not closely at all</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>

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### Health Care

As you may know, the Senate passed a health care bill in December. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Moderately support</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21%</b>

### Health Care

February 2010 Question: As you may know, the Senate passed a health care bill in December. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?

January 2010 Question: As you may know, the Senate passed a health care bill last month. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?

November 2009 Question: As you may know, the House of Representatives passed a health care bill last week. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you support or oppose this bill?

	February 2010	January 2010	November 2009
<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Moderately support</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Moderately oppose</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Strongly oppose</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>20%</b>

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<b>Health Care</b>				
If this bill becomes law, do you think the cost of health care in America will increase, stay the same, or decrease?				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
<b>Increase</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Stay the same</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Decrease</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>

<b>Health Care</b>			
If this bill becomes law, do you think the cost of health care in America will increase, stay the same, or decrease?			
	<b>February 2010</b>	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>November 2009</b>
<b>Increase</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Stay the same</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Decrease</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>19%</b>

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<b>Health Care</b>				
If this bill becomes law, do you think the quality of health care in America will improve, stay the same, or worsen?				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
<b>Improve</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Stay the same</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Worsen</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>13%</b>

<b>Health Care</b>			
If this bill becomes law, do you think the quality of health care in America will improve, stay the same, or worsen?			
	<b>February 2010</b>	<b>January 2010</b>	<b>November 2009</b>
<b>Improve</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Stay the same</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Worsen</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>18%</b>

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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