



[ABOUT THE CENTER](#)

[NEW WORKING-CLASS STUDIES](#)

[RESOURCE](#)

[TEACHING](#)

[SUPPORT THE CENTER](#)

[BLOG](#)

[NEW/UPDATES](#)

[» PREVIOUS NEWS](#)

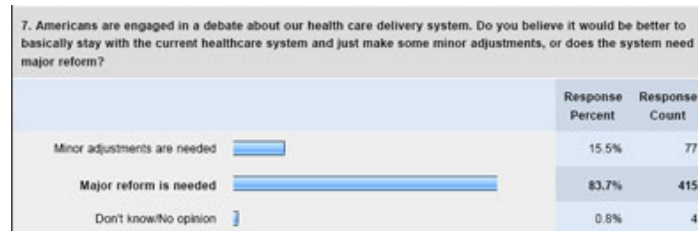
## SURVEY RESULTS: HEALTH CARE

[View other surveys.](#)

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS TO OBAMA: DON'T SACRIFICE PUBLIC PLAN OPTION FOR REPUBLICAN VOTES

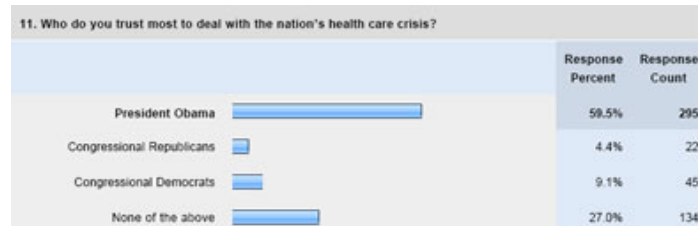
Majority of those participating in second Center for Working-Class Studies survey favor reform, support President's health care plan

If President Obama and Congressional Democrats are listening, respondents to a survey conducted by the Center for Working-Class Studies (CWCS) at Youngstown State University have a very clear message for them: don't sacrifice a public plan option for the sake of bipartisanship. By a margin of 74% to 22% they say the public plan option is more important than securing GOP support for reform. In a related question, 80% of those participating in the survey believe the inclusion of a public plan that will compete with private insurers is an essential feature of reform, with 62% saying it is very important. Only 12% say it is not important.



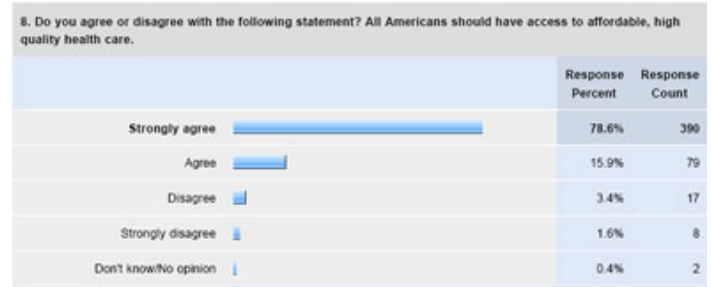
Overall, 72% of respondents favor or strongly favor President Obama's reform plan while 23% are opposed. Sixty-seven percent approve or strongly approve of the way he is handling the issue, but the number of those who strongly approve 15% is nearly equal to the 13% of those who strongly disapprove.

According to Dr. John Russo, co-director of the CWCS, 84% of respondents said the nation's health care system needs a major overhaul, including 79% of those who are satisfied with their current health care coverage and 81% of those who are satisfied with the quality of medical care they now receive. "Opponents of health care reform are fond of saying that a majority of Americans are happy with their insurance and their doctor, and that's true," he said. "But the critics are only telling half the story. While more than 70% of participants are satisfied with their insurance and 84% are happy with their doctor, a vast majority of both groups strongly favor reform. They understand that the system is in trouble and needs to be fixed and fixed now."

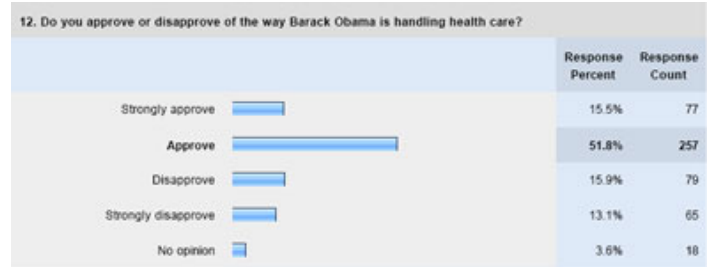




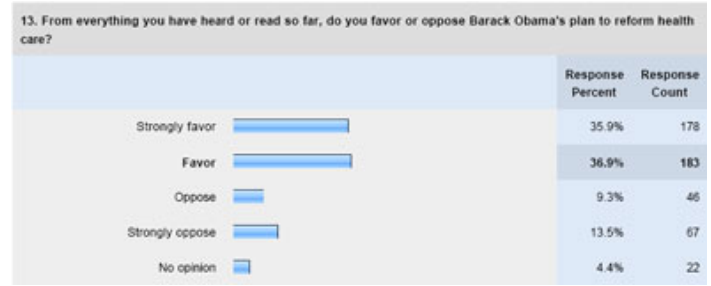
Dr. Russo also noted that the survey clearly demonstrates that respondents trust one person or entity most when it comes to dealing with reform: President Obama. Sixty percent said they trust him most. Nine percent named Congressional Democrats. Only four percent trust Congressional Republicans. That sentiment is reflected in responses to the question of who has the most credibility on the issue. Seventy-one percent find the President very credible or credible while only 26% find him somewhat or not at all credible. Only National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting System with a rating of 66% come close to having the President's credibility on the issue.



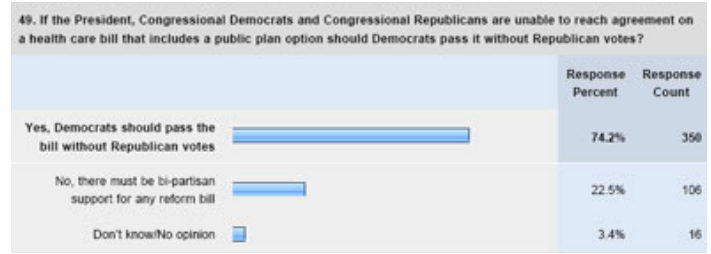
Of those groups directly involved in the provision of health care, the AMA is regarded as credible by 32% of respondents, the American Hospital Association by 13%, industry advocacy group America's Health Insurance Plans by 4%, and PHARMA, the pharmaceutical trade association by 2%.



Congressional Democrats were rated as credible by 42%, Congressional Republicans by 6%. Forty-four percent rated their own Congressperson as credible on the issue. Among the news media, aside from NPR and PBS, 29% say the major broadcast networks are credible, 27% said CNN, and 13% selected Fox News. Among advocacy the AFL-CIO is rated as credible by 50%, the AARP by 43%, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by 11%.



"These results underscore two important points," Dr. Russo said. "First, that the administration and the Democrats made a serious tactical and strategic error by removing President Obama from the frontline of the reform battle during the summer and, second, that if they hope to pass a substantive health care bill the President will have to lead the charge. Absent his credibility the campaign for reform is in real trouble."



In non-health care related items, 76% of respondents approve or strongly approve of President Obama's job performance, down from 87% in the first CWCS survey conducted in May and June of this year. Fifty-three percent say the country is on the right track versus 76% in the earlier survey. Ninety-one percent rate the national economy as bad or very bad compared to 92% in the earlier survey.

[Complete topline results of the survey are available.](#) For more information please contact Dr. John Russo at 330-941-2976.