



Small Business Owners and Stockholders Agree on Ten Crucial Health Care Reform Issues, According to New Zogby/O'Leary Poll

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Washington, D.C. — Two groups that drive the American economy, small business owners and stockholders, agree on ten crucial issues at the center of the health care debate, according to a recent poll conducted by Zogby International and *The O'Leary Report*.

The Zogby/O'Leary Poll surveyed 4,426 likely voters on September 4-8 and has a margin-of-error of plus-or-minus 1.5 percentage points. The results below show what small business owners and stockholders think about various health care reform issues.

1. With which statement do you agree?

Statement A: Expanding government's role in health care is necessary to control costs and expand coverage.

Statement B: Expanding government's role in health care will do more harm than good?

Small Business Owners:

Statement A 37.8%

Statement B 55.1%

Neither 3.0%

Not Sure 4.1%

Stockholders:

Statement A 37.1%

Statement B 55.2%

Neither 4.2%

Not sure 3.4%

2. Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should require all Americans to purchase health insurance, or face a fine?

Small Business Owners:

Agree 20.2%
Disagree 69.1%
Not sure 10.7%

Stockholders:

Agree 19.6%
Disagree 70.9%
Not Sure 9.6%

3. Do you support or oppose a government-run health care system, or “single-payer” system, where the federal government pays for and provides health care for all Americans?

Small Business Owners:

Support 32.4%
Oppose 64.7%
Not sure 2.9%

Stockholders:

Support 31.6%
Oppose 67.0%
Not Sure 1.5%

4. President Obama is promoting a new government agency called the “Independent Medicare Advisory Council,” and some people believe this agency should use its powers to deny payment for procedures it deems unnecessary or futile. Others say that such power would interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. Do you support or oppose the creation of an “Independent Medicare Advisory Council?”

Small Business Owners:

Support 29.7%
Oppose 62.2%
Not sure 8.1%

Stockholders:

Support 26.8%
Oppose 65.0%
Not Sure 8.2%

5. Currently, medical malpractice insurance costs doctors in some areas of the country up to \$200,000 per year, a cost that doctors pass on to their patients in the form of higher fees for service. Do you agree or disagree that tort reform is needed?

Small Business Owners:

Agree 81.3%
Disagree 11.9%
Not sure 6.8%

Stockholders:

Agree 82.5%
Disagree 10.2%
Not Sure 7.2%

6. Do you support or oppose taxing employer-provided health care benefits?

Small Business Owners:

Stockholders:

Support	13.6%	Support	15.9%
Oppose	77.2%	Oppose	77.4%
Not sure	9.2%	Not Sure	6.6%

7. Currently, Americans may only purchase health insurance from a provider licensed in their state. Some say that Americans should be allowed to purchase health insurance from providers in different states possibly creating more competition and driving down the price of health insurance. Do you agree or disagree?

Small Business Owners:		Stockholders:	
Agree	83.9%	Agree	80.7%
Disagree	8.4%	Disagree	7.7%
Not sure	7.7%	Not Sure	11.6%

8. There are currently 26 million Americans age 18 and older who can afford to purchase health insurance, but choose not to purchase it for a variety of reasons. There are also 12 million illegal immigrants in America who lack health insurance. Do you think taxes should be raised to fund a government-run health insurance program for these people?

Small Business Owners:		Stockholders:	
Yes	13.1%	Yes	9.6%
No	78.9%	No	83.8%
Not sure	8.0%	Not Sure	6.7%

9. Some in Congress would like to institute a 5% surtax on people who make more than one million dollars per year in order to pay for health reform. This tax, combined with others, would raise the top marginal tax rate to over 50% in 39 states. Opponents of this surtax say that this tax will hit job producers the most, and slow economic recovery. Proponents of the surtax say that it is needed to cover the cost of providing health insurance to everyone in the U.S. Do you agree or disagree with taxing millionaires an additional 5% to pay for a new health care system?

Small Business Owners:		Stockholders:	
Agree	34.3%	Agree	34.8%
Disagree	61.2%	Disagree	59.4%
Not sure	4.5%	Not Sure	5.8%

10. Should President Obama and Congress add to the deficit by overhauling our healthcare system, or should they lower the deficit first before they consider a \$1 trillion health care overhaul.

Small Business Owners:

Add to deficit	31.9%
Lower deficit first	50.1%
Something else	16.9%
Not Sure	1.1%

Stockholders:

Add to deficit	25.4%
Lower deficit first	52.7%
Something else	20.0%
Not sure	1.8%

“President Obama and congressional leaders rarely miss an opportunity to remind us that small business owners and investors hold the keys to America’s economy,” said Brad O’Leary, publisher of *The O’Leary Report*. “The President and congress should therefore take the opinions of America’s entrepreneurs seriously when it comes to health care reform, as the health care industry represents one-sixth of the U.S. economy.”

Brad O’Leary is publisher of “The O’Leary Report,” a bestselling author, and is a former NBC Westwood One talk show host. His latest bestseller on the looming threats to free speech in America, “Shut Up, America! The End of Free Speech,” (www.EndofFreeSpeech.com) is available now in bookstores. To see more poll results, go to www.olearyreport.com. To interview Brad, contact Shawna Shriner at (703) 272-1500 or shawnashriner@pm-direct.com.