

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 8, 2010

For more commentary from Professor Redlawsk see
<http://eagletonpoll.blogspot.com>

Contact: David Redlawsk, Ph.D.
Email: redlawsk@rutgers.edu
Phone: (732) 932-9384 ext. 285; (319) 400-1134 (cell)

NEW JERSEYANS SUPPORT HEALTH CARE LAW PASSED BY CONGRESS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – New Jerseyans generally support the health care reform law passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama, a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll shows. While a late February Rutgers-Eagleton Poll found that two-thirds believed then that Congress should start over with the bill, 48 percent of New Jersey residents now support the law, while 40 percent oppose it, and 12 percent don't know. Support is slightly lower among registered voters at 47 percent, with 41 percent opposing the bill.

The poll of 953 adults was conducted March 31 to April 3, with a margin of error of +/-3.2 percentage points. The poll includes a subsample of 845 registered voters.

“New Jerseyans have been supportive of some kind of health care reform all along,” said David Redlawsk, director of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll and professor of political science at Rutgers University. “But many were confused by the process and as a result polling seemed to say they would oppose the bill that ultimately was passed. However, this turns out not to be the case.”

Not surprisingly, Republicans do strongly oppose the law, with only 9 percent saying they support it, and 83 percent opposed. The remaining 8 percent are not sure. In turn, 76 percent of Democrats support the law, and only 16 percent oppose it, with 8 percent unsure. Independents are more mixed, with 43 percent in support and 40 percent opposed, while 17 percent are unsure. Ideological moderates, regardless of party, support the new law, 51 percent to 35 percent, while 14 percent don't know.

Support for health care reform is strongest among those with household incomes under \$50,000 at 59 percent, while 38 percent of those with household incomes over \$150,000 support the legislation.

“Support for this health care reform law is solid among moderates, and among people who are most likely to benefit,” said Redlawsk. “While there is significant opposition, it generally comes

from those less likely to support Democrats, suggesting that passage of health care reform is unlikely to hurt Democratic candidates significantly in New Jersey.”

Opponents of the new law were asked if their opposition is because the bill is “too liberal” or because it is “not liberal enough.” Three-quarters of opponents say the law is too liberal, but 14 percent said they oppose the law because it is not liberal enough. Most Republican opponents (87 percent) say the law is too liberal, while a majority of the relatively small number of Democrats opposed (57 percent) also say it is too liberal. Among independents who oppose the law, 66 percent call it too liberal and 21 percent not liberal enough.

“Digging deeper into the opposition to this law, we see that while most opponents are driven by the belief the bill is too liberal, not all are,” said Redlawsk. “In the end, only 30 percent of New Jerseyans oppose this bill because it is too liberal, far less than it appears when the reason for opposition is not probed.”

Rutgers-Eagleton Poll March 31-April 3, 2010

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted from March 31-April 3, 2010 with a scientifically selected random sample of 953 New Jersey adults yielding 845 registered voters. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey population, including gender, age, race, education, and Hispanic ethnicity. All results are reported with these weighted data.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for a sample of 953 adults is +/-3.2 points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey adults favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 46.8 and 53.2 percent (50 +/- 3.2) had all New Jersey adults been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

**Weighted Sample Characteristics
(n=953 Adults)**

42% Dem	48% Male	26% 18-29	66% White
32% Independent	52% Female	38% 30-49	11% Black
26% Republican		19% 50-64	15% Hispanic
		17% 65+	7% Asian
			1% Other/Multiple

**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll March 31-April 3, 2010
Questions and Tables**

The questions covered in the release of April 8, 2010 are list below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. All percentages are of New Jersey adults.

Q. Do you support or oppose the health care bill that was recently passed in Washington?

	ALL	Reg Voters
Support	48%	47%
Oppose	40%	41%
Don't know (Vol)	12%	12%
N=	948	839

	Dem	Ind	Rep	Liberal	Middle	Conserv
Support	76%	43%	9%	77%	51%	18%
Oppose	16%	40%	83%	18%	35%	71%
Don't Know	8%	17%	8%	6%	14%	12%
N=	374	288	238	171	491	241

	Male	Female	White	Black	Latino	Asian
Support	50%	46%	38%	82%	67%	56%
Oppose	41%	40%	49%	9%	23%	38%
Don't Know	10%	14%	13%	10%	9%	6%
N=	452	496	611	103	141	66

	Income			
	< 50K	50K - <100K	100K - <150K	150K +
Support	59%	47%	44%	38%
Oppose	31%	40%	46%	54%
Don't Know	10%	13%	10%	8%
N=	302	238	147	107

Q. [ASKED ONLY IF OPPOSED TO THE HEALTH CARE BILL] Do you oppose that legislation because you think its approach toward health care is too liberal, or because you think it is not liberal enough?

Too liberal	76%
Not liberal enough	14%
Don't Know (vol)	10%
<hr/>	
N=	371

Combined Results for both questions: Support for Health Care Bill

Support	48%
Oppose Not Liberal Enough	6%
Oppose Too Liberal	30%
Oppose Neither Reason	4%
Don't Know	12%