



Coalition Building

The Usual Suspects, Strange Bedfellows and Game Changers



Patrick Willard
Senior Director

Families USA

Families USA, a leading national voice for health care consumers, is dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care and improved health for all.

We advance our mission through public policy analysis, advocacy, and collaboration with partners to promote a patient-and community centered health system.

Working at the national, state and community level for over 35 years



COVERAGE



HEALTH EQUITY



HEALTH CARE
VALUE



CONSUMER
ENGAGEMENT

The Usual Suspects



Leading Patient Advocacy Groups Stand Together to Oppose American Health Care Act

Legislation would leave millions with inadequate, unaffordable care as they battle chronic and other major health conditions

Washington (May 1, 2017) – On behalf of more than one hundred million Americans battling chronic and other major health conditions, a coalition of 10 patient organizations remains united in its opposition to the American Health Care Act (AHCA). In March, our patient

**TO THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES:
YOU'RE READY TO LEAD
AND WE'RE READY TO HELP.**

The elections are over. Now the real work begins. We face health care and financial security crises that seem to grow worse with every passing day.

Our nation's future depends on you, our elected leaders, to achieve affordable, quality health care and financial security for all. AARP, Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business and Service Employees International Union have joined together in Divided We Fail to make a real difference. If we can work together, you can, too. And if you do, we all win.

**Let's finally bring the change we need to Washington.
Join us at DividedWeFail.org.**


DividedWeFail.org



*In 2007 four unlikely partners
joined to urge support for health
care reform and financial
security*

- AARP
- Business Roundtable
- NFIB
- SEIU

Harry and Louise - they're baaaaack...

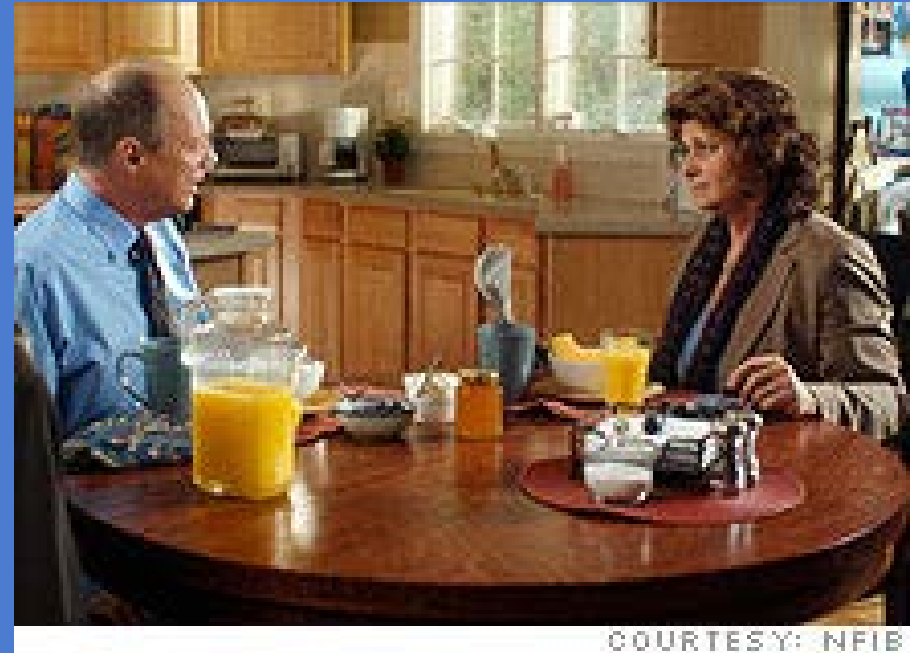
July 17, 2009 by Rose Gordon

Those infamous fictional "Harry and Louise" characters that worked against President Clinton's healthcare reform in the 1990s are being **resurrected** - this time to...

Blog



Those infamous fictional "Harry and Louise" characters that worked against President Clinton's healthcare reform in the 1990s are being **resurrected** - this time to play for the other side. Families USA, a nonprofit, watchdog group for consumers' healthcare, and trade association PhRMA are sponsoring the ads that begin this weekend and will advocate for healthcare reform under President Obama. Microsite is [here](#).



Find a champion



Medicare Dental Bills

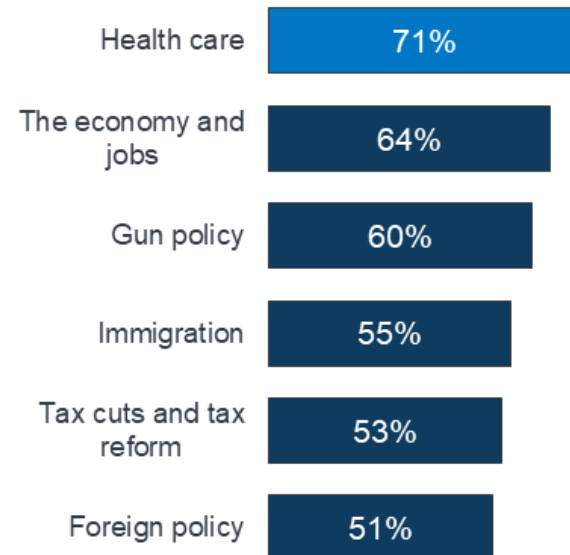
- Medicare Dental Benefit Act of 2019 (Cardin, S. 22)
- Medicare Dental, Vision & Hearing Benefit Act of 2019 (Doggett, H.R. 1393) ▪ (Casey)
- Seniors Have Eyes, Ears, and Teeth Act (Roybal-Allard, H.R. 576)

Health Care in 2018 Elections

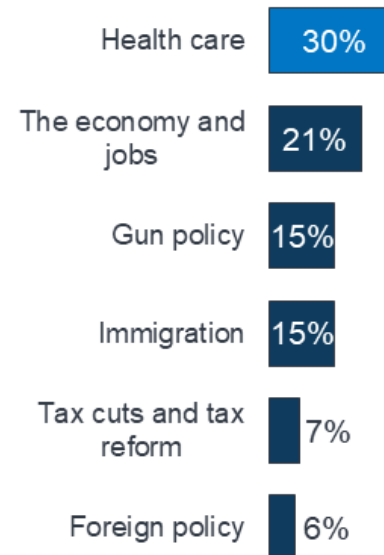
Figure 1

Health Care Is Top Issue For Voters In The Midterm Elections

Percent who say each of the following issues is “very important” in making their decision about who to vote for Congress this year:



When asked to choose one, percent who say each of the following is the “most important” issue in making their decision about who to vote for Congress this year:



NOTE: Questions asked of and reported among total registered voters.

SOURCE: KFF Election Tracking Poll (conducted September 19-October 2, 2018)

KFF
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FAMILY FOUNDATION



Medicare for All Plans

Public health care proposals

PBSO
NEWS
HOUR

| Proposal | Who gets coverage | Cost | Benefits |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Medicare-for-all Sanders | All U.S. residents | No premiums, costs covered through tax increases | All medically necessary services, including dental, hearing, vision and reproductive health. |
| Medicare-for-all Ellison | All U.S. residents | No premiums, costs covered through tax increases | All medically necessary services, including dental, hearing, vision and palliative care. |
| Public option Schakowsky/Whitehouse- | Citizens, permanent residents (excludes people who are incarcerated) | Premiums set by Health and Human Services Secretary. Patients can get ACA subsidies | Essential health benefits as outlined in the ACA |
| Public option Bennet/Higgins | Citizens and permanent residents not eligible for Medicare (excludes people who are incarcerated) | Premiums set by Health and Human Services Secretary. Patients can get ACA subsidies | Essential health benefits as outlined in the ACA |
| Public option Merkley/Richmond | All U.S. residents not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid | Premiums vary as set by ACA rules. Patients eligible for ACA subsidies | Essential health benefits as outlined in the ACA plus Medicare Parts A, B and D benefits |
| Expanded Medicare Stabenow | U.S. residents aged 55-64 who are not eligible for Medicare Parts A or B | Nationally-set premiums with additional costs for specialized plans | Medicare Parts A, B and D benefits |
| Expanded Medicare Higgins | People aged 50-64 who are not entitled to Medicare Part A or B. | Premiums adjusted for geography with additional costs for specialized plans | Medicare Parts A, B and D benefits |
| Expanded Medicaid Schatz/Lujan | People who live in states that opt into "Medicaid buy-in" and are not enrolled in other coverage. | Premiums set by states with limitations outlined in the ACA and limited to 9.5% of household income | Medicaid benefit plan that includes ACA essential benefits |

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

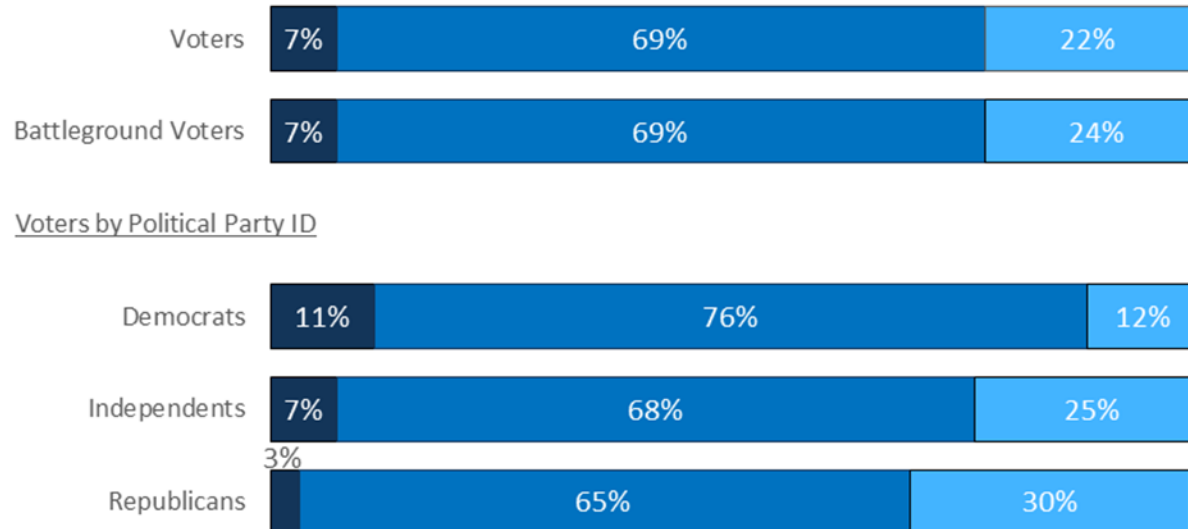
Medicare for All in 2020

Figure 10

Voters Say Candidate's Stance on National Health Plan Is Important, But Few Say It Is Most Important Factor in 2018

Thinking about the upcoming elections, is a candidate's position on a national health plan the single most important factor in your vote, is it important, but not the most important factor, or is it not an important factor?

■ Single most important factor ■ Important, but not the most important factor ■ Not an important factor



NOTE: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.

SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted March 8-13, 2018)

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Administrative Efforts

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Blog Friday, September 21, 2018

Congress Shows Support for Medically Necessary Dental Care

Share this:



We're advancing toward oral health coverage in Medicare, one small step at a time

Millions of seniors and people with disabilities rely on Medicare for their health care, but it does not cover their oral health care. Even if someone needs dental care in order to have a medical procedure—like a kidney transplant patient who needs an oral infection treated to begin surgery -- Medicare won't cover the oral health care. Luckily, coverage of "medically necessary" dental care could be added to Medicare through CMS's administrative authority fairly easily without any need for legislation.

At the end of last week, key bipartisan members of the House and Senate sent letters to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) asking to it cover certain "medically necessary" dental care in Medicare. 43 House Representatives and 28 Senators signed these bipartisan letters. This is an important show of support for an issue that rarely gets the attention it deserves from policymakers.

Representatives Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Sandy Levin (D-MI) [led the sign-on effort](#) in the House, while Senators Rand Paul (R-KY), Ben-Cardin (D-MD) and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) [shepherded the effort](#) in the Senate. The letters ask the administration to assure seniors and people with disabilities can get the dental care they need to be covered by Medicare so they can address other serious health issues.<



Related Blog Posts

August 29, 2017

[Medicare Should Pay for Oral Health Care That Is Necessary to Manage Serious Illnesses](#)



Get Involved

[Sign up for our Health Action email list](#) to get important updates, policy news, and in-depth analysis on health care issues from Families USA.

[Donate to Families USA](#) and support our work for the best health and health care for all.



Related Projects

[Oral Health for All](#)

Campaign to expand access to oral health coverage to the more than 106 million who are uncovered.

Our vision is a nation where the best health and health care are equally accessible to all

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