

Americans Reject Medicare “Negotiation” and Government Price Setting

A new Ipsos/PhRMA poll¹ examines voters’ attitudes towards Medicare “negotiation” and reveals that Americans reject so-called “negotiation” once they are presented with arguments around the debate.



Key findings from the survey reveal:

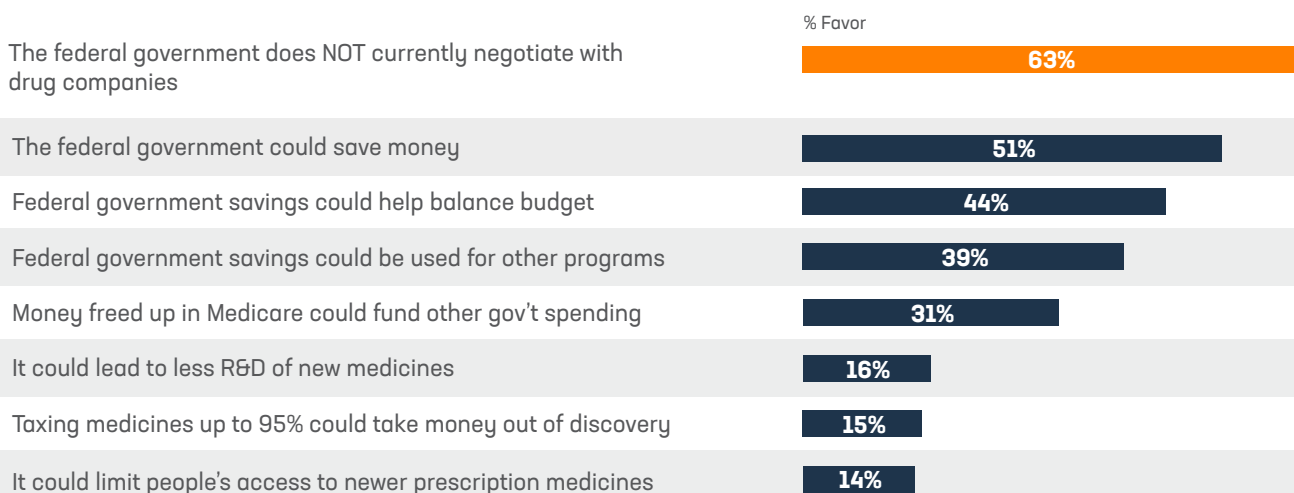
1 Public support for Medicare “negotiation” evaporates once Americans see the arguments both for and against drug price “negotiations.”

- Only **14%** support “negotiation” once told it **could limit people’s access to newer prescription medicines**.
- Only **15%** support once told that **taxing medicines** up to 95% for non-compliance could take money out of the search for new medicines and cures.
- Only **16%** support once told it could lead to **less research and development of new medicines**.



Up to 49-point dip when learning of the proposal’s tradeoffs

Q: Would you favor or oppose allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies to get a lower price on medications that would apply to both Medicare and private insurance? Would you support or oppose a policy allowing government negotiation of drug prices if you knew it had the following impact?



2 Support particularly drops among key demographics once told that drug price negotiations could limit people's access to newer prescription medicine.

Notably there is a significant shift in support among the following:

- **Democratic** support drops 61 points (from **77%** to **16%**) after learning the policy could limit access.
- **Seniors'** support drops 58 points (from **70%** to **12%**).
- **Hispanic** support drops 51 points (from **67%** to **16%**).



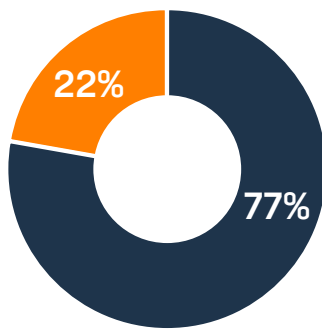
3 Americans want pragmatic policy solutions – not government price setting.

Instead of prescription drug price setting, Americans want policymakers to address their more pressing health care concerns – rising costs and decreasing health insurance coverage – and focus on solutions that would solve them.

- After insurance costs (**44%**) and the pandemic (**37%**), the bureaucracy, inefficiency, waste in the system (**30%**) and out-of-pocket expenses (**28%**) are cited as top health care concerns. Prescription drug costs is the fifth most important health care problem for Americans, with 26% feeling it's a major issue in the health care system.
- When given the choice, Americans overwhelmingly prefer that Congress focus on overall costs of health care coverage and that the federal government provide oversight and incentives over setting prices:

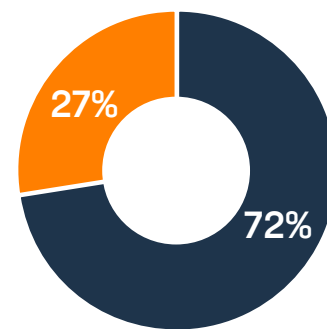


Reduce the overall cost of health care coverage



- Congress should focus more on reducing the costs of prescription drugs
- Congress should **focus more on reducing the overall costs of health care coverage** such as premiums, deductibles, and copays

Government oversight not government price setting



- The federal government should set prices for health care services and prescription medicines and determine what services and medicines are covered by private health plans
- The federal government should **provide oversight and incentives** to health care providers, prescription drug companies and health insurers to encourage more competition to lower prices in the health care system

Source: Ipsos, Sept 10 - 19, 2021
n= 5,029 American adults

When it comes to addressing Americans' true health care concerns, policymakers should focus on solutions that lower patients' out-of-pocket costs while protecting access and the future development of new cures and treatments – not government price setting. Learn more about how we're working together to improve the health care system at phrma.org/betterway.

For more details on the Ipsos/PhRMA poll click [here](#).