

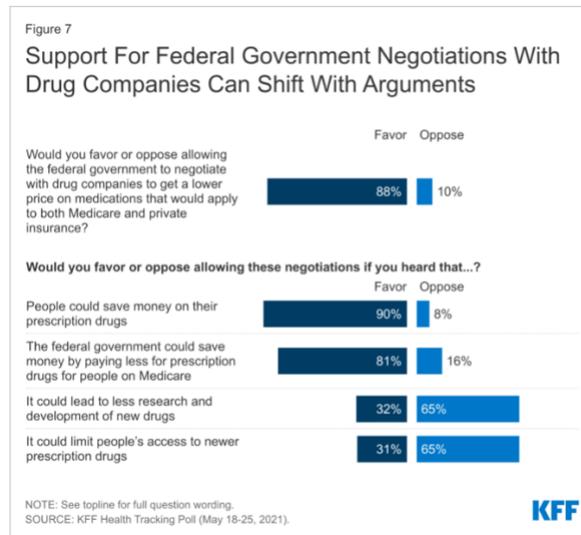
Recent Polling on Medicare “Negotiation” Misleads; Independent, Non-Partisan Polling Actually Shows Voter Support Evaporating

Now more than ever it is critical that Americans have access to their medicines and continued innovation into new therapies. Public polling routinely show that people care most about lowering their out-of-pocket costs and that they want policymakers to focus most on addressing coverage-related costs, including lowering co-pays and deductibles to reduce what they – not the government and not their health plan – pay for their care.

Moreover, non-partisan, independent public polls have repeatedly demonstrated that support for government “negotiation” evaporates once voters learn that these policies could result in restrictions in access to medicines or slow down innovation into new treatments for challenging conditions. Americans simply do not support these trade-offs when pollsters choose to ask them about it.

FACT: Americans reject so-called Medicare Negotiation once they learn about the trade-offs.

- According to the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), **65% of Americans oppose “negotiations” if they limit people’s access to newer prescription drugs** or lead to less research and development of new drugs. This fact is often omitted in polling, including from the recent poll by the ***Alliance for Retired Americans/Lake Research Partners (LRP)***.



FACT: Research from multiple sources reinforces that Americans want to make sure policymakers do not disrupt the innovation ecosystem or limit patient access as part of a “negotiation.”

- 76% of Americans [oppose](#) H.R.3 “negotiations” if they cause delays in access to new prescription drugs, and 72% oppose it if it results in fewer new medicines developed in the future.
- [62% also agree](#) we should keep the current law that prohibits government interference in Medicare plan negotiations because it protects seniors and people with disabilities from losing access to their medicines.
- Americans are proud of COVID-19 vaccines as a result of government and industry collaboration, and [82% agree](#) that keeping a strong American biopharmaceutical industry is a matter of national security to protect us against future pandemics.

FACT: There are better ways to address health care costs. Voters want policymakers to focus on pragmatic, patient-centered solutions that address their [true concerns](#), like reducing waste while making coverage and cost more predictable:

- *62% strongly support* (83% support overall) requiring health insurance companies to pass along to patients more of the discounts on prescription medicines (at the pharmacy counter) they negotiate with pharmaceutical companies.
- *60% strongly support* (83% support overall) ensuring that deductibles are lower and more affordable so that insurance kicks in earlier when you need to use it.
- *56% strongly support* (75% support overall) placing a cap on the amount health insurers can make patients pay for deductibles, copays and other out-of-pocket costs.
- *54% strongly support* (77% support overall) requiring Medicare Part D plans to set a maximum limit for what seniors pay out of pocket for prescription medicines in each year.
- *52% strongly support* (80% support overall) giving insurers more incentives to keep costs manageable for people who are sick and take prescription medicines.

5 Things to Know About Misleading [Poll](#) from the *Alliance for Retired Americans/Lake Research Partners (LRP)*

Meanwhile, recent polling from advocacy firms such as the *Alliance for Retired Americans/LRP* misrepresents voter opinion by choosing to focus only on one issue, providing one side of the argument and then concluding – using the same one-sided poll as evidence – that the issue will be decisive in the next election.

- 1.) The poll goes out of its way to avoid asking questions that would reveal voters’ genuine concern with government price-setting, or so-called “negotiation,” once they know what the policy risks are – patient access to current and future medicines – either through a formulary or crippling taxes.
- 2.) The poll neglects to ask about *any* alternatives to government price-setting as a way to address rising out-of-pocket costs for health care and prescription medicines.
- 3.) The poll dramatically overstates the importance of this issue with voters, overlooking that “prescription drug costs” [ranks low in priority](#) for voters today when put in the context of other important issues facing the country – and the issue polled in the single-[digits](#) heading into the 2020 election. For example, a recent national poll finds the top issues are the economy/jobs (37%) and the coronavirus (32%). By contrast, health care insurance costs and coverage ranked as the fourth issue (22%), behind immigration and border security (24%), with [prescription drug costs coming in last](#) (5%) among the 11 issues polled.
- 4.) The poll uses biased techniques that have the effect of misrepresenting support for Medicare benefits expansion. The poll asks people where the savings from drug price negotiation should go but only gives three options: expand Medicare benefits to pay for hearing, vision, dental; lower program eligibility to 60 years of age; or fund public research into new cures and treatments. Inexplicably, the question neglects to offer seniors an option to put drug price savings into reducing what seniors actually pay for their medicines.
- 5.) The poll misleadingly characterizes its own data. They write: “*a sizable portion (31%) of Republican seniors would vote for a Democrat who favored this proposal*” or “*Seniors would cross party lines on this issue.*” Nothing in the survey can be interpreted to support this statement. Presumably, this statement is derived from a “**more likely to vote**” question – not at all the same thing, and it does not substantiate such a claim in this political environment.