

New Poll: Majority of Voters Support Aggressive Congressional Action to Lower Hospital Prices

As health care becomes increasingly unaffordable for everyday Americans, voters demand lawmakers take action to address the key driver of rising costs for the privately insured — the high prices they pay for health care. A new survey shows a majority think it is very important for Congress to take action to lower health care prices. Voters from across the political spectrum express support for a range of policies to lower hospital prices, including 72% who support limiting the prices that hospitals can charge.

The survey was conducted by a bipartisan polling team — Guy Molyneux and Geoff Garin from Hart Research Associates and Bob Ward from Fabrizio Ward — and supported by Arnold Ventures. The findings build on a [2021 survey on high prices](#) and reinforce voters' strong support for Congressional action to lower hospital prices. A large majority of voters say that hospital prices are not only rising, but unreasonable given the care that patients receive.

The findings demonstrate the broad bipartisan support for a range of policies to lower high hospital prices for the privately insured, including site neutral payments for hospital outpatient departments, stronger antitrust oversight, and direct limits on the prices hospitals can charge. Voters' main worry: that Congress won't do enough to limit health care prices, not that they will go too far.

Voters demand Congress take action on hospital prices.

- Nine in ten voters (89%) say it is important for this Congress to take action to reduce hospital prices, including 95% of Biden voters and 85% of Trump voters. 60% say it is very important.
- By a wide majority, more voters (74%) are concerned that Congress won't do enough to limit prices than are worried Congress will get too involved in setting prices (26%).

There is broad consensus that hospital prices are out of control.

- 80% of voters say hospital prices are unreasonable, including more than 3 in 4 Biden voters (78%) and more than 4 in 5 Trump voters (83%).
- 75% of voters think the prices that hospitals and doctors charge privately insured patients for medical services are too high relative to Medicare.
- When asked about limiting hospital prices to two times what Medicare pays for a service, half of voters (51%) said a rate of twice what Medicare pays is too high. Only 6% said it was too low.

Large majorities of voters support a range of policies to lower prices.

- Voters from both sides of the aisle broadly support:
 - Requiring hospitals to publicly disclose their prices (87%)
 - Limiting outpatient fees to the same price charged by doctors in the community (85%)
 - Preventing hospitals from engaging in business tactics that reduce competition (75%)
 - Limiting mergers and acquisitions (74%)
 - Limiting the prices that hospitals can charge to two times what Medicare pays (72%)

More than 7 in 10 voters support aggressive action to lower prices, including limiting the prices that hospitals can charge to privately insured patients to 2X what Medicare pays.

- There is broad bipartisan support for directly limiting prices, with 76% of Biden voters and 70% of Trump voters supporting it.
- 59% of voters believe that limiting the prices hospitals can charge to no more than twice the price Medicare pays would lower health care costs for them. A solid majority of voters in both parties still support limiting the prices hospitals can charge even after hearing both sides' arguments.