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MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY

Cover All Children from Head to Toe

New Poll Affirms Strong Public Support for Health Reform that Meets the Needs of Children

A new Lake Research Partners survey commissioned by First Focus in July 2009 affirms that there is overwhelming support among the public for ensuring all children in America are covered as part of health care reform, even if it increases their taxes. The poll also shows strong support for providing all children with the comprehensive benefits they need to meet their unique health and developmental needs, including efforts to protect existing coverage, benefits, and out-of-pocket limits on expenses for the nearly one-third of American children who get their health coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The key findings of the poll include:

- By a margin of 87%-11%, nearly 8-to-1, Americans favor ensuring all children have health care coverage, including by a 68%-28% margin even if it increases their taxes.
- By more than a 3-to-1 ratio (78%-21%), voters believe that it is extremely/very important that "all children in America are provided health care coverage as part of health reform."
- Those margins remain even when including legal immigrant children. In fact, by 3-to-1 margin of 71%-24%, Americans support having a national health insurance program covering all children, including legal immigrant children.
- An overwhelming 3-to-1 majority (62%-21%) of Americans would oppose the elimination of CHIP if they learned that a new Health Insurance Exchange "may be more costly for families and provide fewer benefits for children."
- By a 54-14% margin or almost 4-to-1, Americans would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported a health care reform plan that reduced the level of health care coverage for children in such a manner.

The poll's findings are clear: Americans believe children should be a top priority in health reform; American voters want to ensure that all children have health care coverage; and Americans want children to be better off, not left worse off, by health reform.

A copy of the poll can be found at <http://www.firstfocus.net/pages/3623>

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Funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation made this poll possible.