

**To: Vincent Demarco, President  
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.**

**From: Steve Raabe, President  
OpinionWorks, LLC**

**Date: February 15, 2015**

**Subject: Maryland Voter Poll on Medicaid Cuts and the Tobacco Tax**

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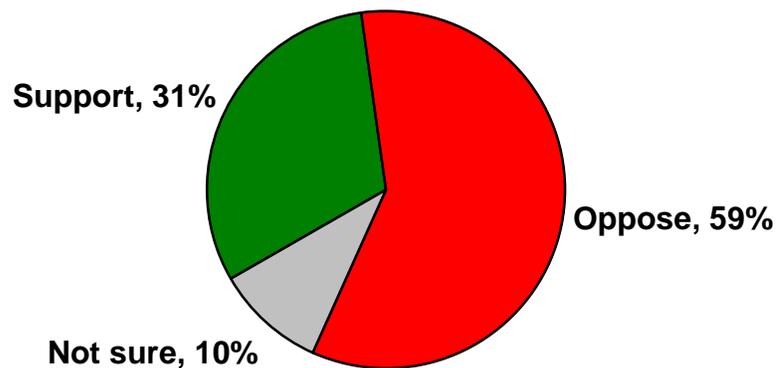
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative commissioned this statewide Maryland voter poll to understand attitudes about a proposed health care budget cut and a proposed increase in the State's tobacco tax.

This telephone poll of 500 randomly-selected Maryland registered voters was conducted by telephone February 3-11, 2015, using trained and supervised live interviewers. The poll is balanced to reflect the geographic, political, and demographic makeup of the statewide electorate. The findings have a potential sampling error of no more than  $\pm 4.5$  percent at the 95% confidence level.

### **Strong Opposition to Proposed Health Coverage Budget Cut**

By nearly two-to-one, voters statewide oppose a \$9 million budget cut proposed by Governor Hogan which would remove health coverage for up to 1,400 pregnant women. Nearly six in ten voters (59%) oppose this budget cut, compared to 31% who support it.

**Voter Opposition to Proposed Health Care Budget Cut**  
*Maryland Registered Voters Statewide*

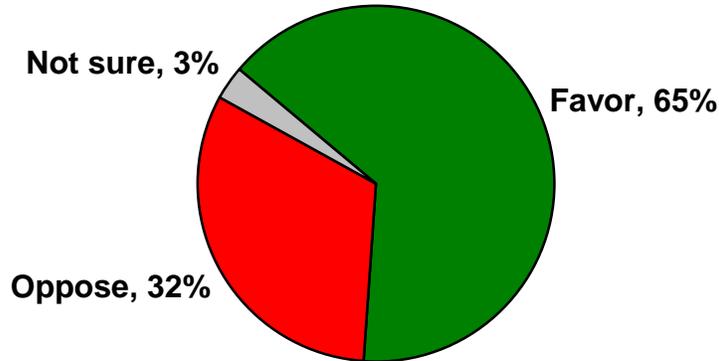


*"To help balance the state budget, Governor Hogan has proposed cutting health coverage, including pre-natal care, for up to fourteen hundred pregnant women who may not have access to affordable health care coverage, saving the State \$9 million. Some of these women could buy their own health coverage, but many of them could not because a glitch in federal law would make coverage unaffordable for them. Do you support or oppose this budget cut?"*

**Strong Support for a Tobacco Tax Increase**

An overwhelming majority of nearly two-thirds of voters (65%) support a \$1.00 per pack increase in the State tobacco tax with the money dedicated to restoring the cut in health coverage for pregnant women. Compared to the 65% who favor such a tobacco tax increase, only 32% are opposed.

**Voter Support for a \$1.00 per Pack Tobacco Tax Increase**  
*With the Money Dedicated to Restoring Health Care Cut*



*“Would you favor or oppose a one dollar per pack increase in the state tobacco tax with some of the money dedicated to restoring this cut in health coverage for pregnant women who do not have access to affordable health care?”*

Support is strong across major demographic subgroups and in all corners of the State as illustrated in the table below. The tobacco tax proposal enjoys support across party lines, including a majority of Republican voters.

**Subgroup Support for Tobacco Tax**

Voter Group	Favor	Oppose
<b>All Voters</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Men	65%	32%
Women	64%	32%
Whites	60%	37%
African-Americans	81%	17%
All Others	52%	40%
Baltimore City	76%	22%
Baltimore County	67%	32%
Montgomery County	64%	31%
Prince George’s County	63%	33%
Central Maryland (10 metropolitan jurisdictions)	66%	30%
Rural Counties (14 counties in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore)	55%	42%
Democrats	72%	24%
Republicans	51%	45%
Independents	60%	39%

# Maryland Voter Poll on Medicaid Cuts and the Tobacco Tax

February 15, 2015

Page 3

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## **How This Poll Was Conducted**

OpinionWorks interviewed 500 randomly-selected registered voters across Maryland by telephone February 3–11, 2015. The interviews were conducted by trained and supervised live interviewers who are skilled in opinion research best practices.

The poll has a potential sampling error of no more than  $\pm 4.5\%$  at a 95% confidence level, meaning that at least 95% of the time the survey results would differ by no more than that margin if every registered voter in Maryland had been interviewed.

Interviewees were drawn randomly from the database of registered voters, supplied by the State Board of Elections and matched with landline and cellular telephone numbers by a commercial vendor. The sample was balanced geographically and by political party during interviewing, and respondents were screened to ensure that only registered voters were interviewed. Weights were applied to bring the voter sample into compliance with the demographic breakdown of the registered voter population.

## **Brief Background on OpinionWorks**

OpinionWorks conducts frequent opinion studies at the state and local level across the country. We are the polling organization for *The Baltimore Sun* newspaper in Maryland, and have polled for numerous other media throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We have conducted statewide surveys for the court systems in Florida and Utah; for the health departments in West Virginia and the District of Columbia; for public universities in New York, Maryland, and Utah; and for conservation agencies and advocates in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. In addition to these public surveys, we assess donor and customer relationships for a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities nationally.