

**To: Vincent DeMarco, President
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Inc.**

**From: Steve Raabe, President
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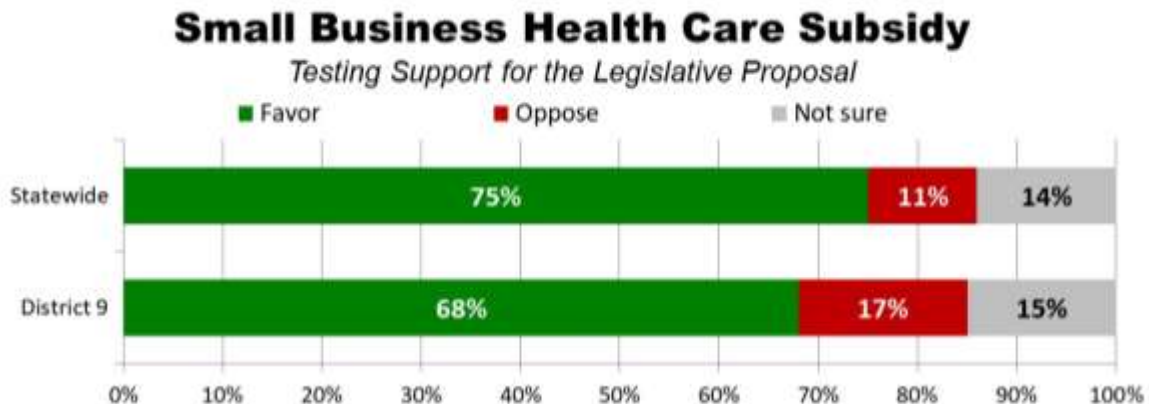
Date: January 16, 2020

Subject: Maryland Polling on Small Business Health Care Subsidy Proposal

Small Business Health Care Subsidy Proposal Enjoys Very Broad Voter Support

A new statewide OpinionWorks poll of 1,049 Maryland registered voters shows overwhelming support for a proposal to create a new \$15 million program to expand health care subsidies for small businesses and educate small businesses about the assistance that is available for them. The poll was conducted between December 13, 2019 and January 2, 2020.

A broad-based majority of 75% of Maryland's voters favor this proposal, while only 11% oppose it – a ratio of almost seven voters in support for each one who opposes this proposal. Fourteen percent of voters said they had no position on it.



"Many small businesses still cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage for their employees, and some do not know that federal tax credits are available to help them do so. Legislators are proposing to create a new \$15 million program to expand health care subsidies for small businesses and educate small businesses about the assistance that is available for them. Would you favor or oppose that proposal?"

An oversample of 185 interviews was conducted in Legislative District 9, a swing district located in Howard and Carroll Counties. Registration in this district is almost evenly split between Democrats (39%) and Republicans (37%), with 24% declining to affiliate with either major party. The district has two Republican members of the House of Delegates and one Democratic member, and the State Senate seat switched parties to Democratic in 2018.

In this swing District 9, 68% of voters favor the proposal and only 17% oppose it, with 15% unsure.

Support Spans All Subgroups

Statewide, support for this proposal crosses political party lines, with 66% of Republicans supporting it, as well as 71% of Independents and 80% of Democrats.

	All Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Favor	75%	66%	80%	71%
Oppose	11%	17%	8%	12%
Margin	+ 64%	+ 49%	+ 72%	+ 59%
Not sure	14%	18%	12%	17%

Regionally, support never drops below 69% in any corner of the state.

	Balt City	Balt County	Anne Arundel	Greater Balt	Mont-gomery	Prince George's	Greater Wash	Eastern Shore	Southrn MD	Westrn MD
Favor	76%	80%	69%	74%	77%	78%	76%	74%	69%	75%
Oppose	13%	8%	15%	12%	9%	10%	10%	11%	15%	6%
Margin	+ 63%	+ 72%	+ 54%	+ 62%	+ 68%	+ 68%	+ 66%	+ 63%	+ 54%	+ 69%
Not sure	12%	12%	15%	14%	14%	12%	13%	15%	16%	18%

How This Poll was Conducted

A total of 1,049 interviews were conducted statewide across Maryland, and an oversample of 185 interviews were conducted in Legislative District 9, between December 13, 2019 and January 2, 2020 among randomly selected registered voters. Live interviewers reached voters on both wireless and landline telephones, and a third group were given the option of responding online to ensure the poll best represented all segments of the electorate. Sampling targets were adhered to throughout the interviewing process to ensure that the sample represented the electorate both statewide and in District 9 geographically, by political party, and for key demographic indicators such as gender, age, and race or ethnicity. Following interviewing, statistical weights were applied to ensure the sample most closely mirrored the characteristics of the statewide electorate. This poll produces a margin of sampling error no greater than ±3.0% for the statewide sample, and ±7.2% for the District 9 sample, at the 95% confidence level, meaning that at least 19 times out of 20 the actual results would differ by no more than that margin if every registered voter in the state or district had been interviewed.

Brief Background on OpinionWorks

Annapolis-based OpinionWorks conducts frequent opinion studies at the state and local level across the country. Since 2007 we have been the polling organization for *The Baltimore Sun* newspaper in Maryland, and have polled for numerous other media and advocates throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We are engaged by state and local government agencies from Delaware to Oregon to assess public needs and preferences. Our recently released Citizen Stewardship Indicator, conducted for the Chesapeake Bay Program, is a model nationally for measuring behavior adoption and potential behavior change on behalf of water restoration. We measure health attitudes and practices for public health departments, assess alumni engagement and prospective student expectations for colleges and universities, evaluate donor and volunteer relationships for non-profit organizations, and have a growing body of work in Latin America.