



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FR: BILL MCINTURFF/ELIZABETH HARRINGTON/GEOFF GARIN

DT: FEBRUARY 1st, 2012

RE: NATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS – MEDICARE FUNDING FOR AMERICA’S NURSING HOME CARE

KEY FINDINGS:

National research conducted from January 26-30th, 2012 by Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates, on behalf of the Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care, shows:

- Voters overwhelmingly oppose cutting spending on Medicare.

Total Favor	15%
Total Oppose	83%
Strongly Favor	6%
Somewhat Favor	9%
Somewhat Oppose	16%
Strongly Oppose	67%

- After hearing that Medicare funds are used to help pay for nursing home care, more than eight out of ten voters oppose reducing the amount Medicare pays nursing homes (15% favor/82% oppose).
 - There is a very high level of opposition. A majority of voters (55%) strongly oppose reducing the amount Medicare pays nursing homes.

- Significant majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats oppose reducing the amount Medicare pays nursing homes.

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Republicans	18%	78%
Independents	15%	83%
Democrats	12%	86%

- Seniors (age 65+), who tend to be more affected by these cuts, are even more opposed (11% favor/87% oppose).
- Instead of reducing Medicare funding to nursing homes, voters believe the federal government should either increase this funding or provide the same level of funding to nursing homes.
- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of voters believe the federal government should increase funding to nursing homes, 51% of voters believe the funding levels should remain the same, and only six percent (6%) of voters believe the funding should be decreased.
 - There is a modest difference by party, with Democrats more supportive of an increase and Republicans more supportive of keeping the same level of funding. But neither party supports a decrease in Medicare funding to nursing homes.

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Republicans	33%	56%	8%
Independents	37%	50%	9%
Democrats	45%	49%	3%

- With regard to last year’s federal government cut to Medicare payments to nursing homes, if these reductions are made, roughly seven out of ten voters (69%) say it would be better for this cut to be spread over a three year period of time.

- Respondents were asked the following question:
 “Last year, the federal government cut Medicare payments to nursing homes more than eleven percent in one year, in part to address an overpayment that may have been made in previous years. With respect to this cut, would it be better to...

8% Make these cuts over the one year time period in order to provide the federal government with an immediate savings on health care costs and provide the government with a refund for the services that were previously overpaid by Medicare.

...OR...

69% Spread these cuts over a three year time period in order to prevent further job loss at local nursing homes and to protect the quality of care nursing homes provide to America's seniors.

...OR...

21% Do you not have an opinion about this one way or the other?

- This is true regardless of party. Majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats believe these reductions, if made, should be spread over a three year period of time.

	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Years</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Republicans	9%	69%	20%
Independents	11%	65%	19%
Democrats	5%	71%	23%

METHODOLOGY:

Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted a national telephone survey of 800 registered voters (700 landline; 100 cell phone), from January 26-30, 2012, on behalf of the Alliance for Quality Nursing Home Care. The margin of error on a sample of 800 interviews is $\pm 3.46\%$.