



For Immediate Release

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Local Polling Reveals Top Health Care Issues for Voters in Delaware

The survey results highlight the rate at which Delawareans are struggling to afford quality care

DELAWARE - Delaware voters in ALG Research's recent [Delaware poll](#) see affordability as a major issue in the state's health care system. While Delawareans generally believe the health care system is meeting their needs and are wary of making fundamental changes to it, especially as we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear out-of-pocket costs are having a serious impact. As a result, voters – even those with insurance – are struggling to afford quality care and are racking up medical debt as costs continue to climb.

"This research confirms what many Delawareans have been feeling: the out-of-pocket costs for quality health care are too high," said the Hon. Donna Christensen, a founding board member of CQC and the first female physician elected to Congress. "With about 18% of Americans with medical debt in collections, it is no wonder why consumers are stressed about the cost of going to the hospital or seeing a doctor. Out-of-pocket costs shouldn't be so high and unpredictable that they discourage people from seeking care, and insurance should act like insurance and be there for patients when they need it."

Voters want elected officials to get those costs down, but not at the expense of access to quality care. Voters cite cost (45%) as the thing they want their leaders to work on most—nearly double as many choose cost compared to those who choose improving quality (24%), ease-of-navigation (15%), or access (12%). However, in an open-ended question, more respondents said "good health care" would mean access to good health care providers (54%) than said it would mean more affordable care (38%).

According to the pollster, Christine Matthews with Bellwether Research, "The cost of healthcare is a huge issue for voters in Delaware. Six-in-ten report that at some point they have struggled to pay a medical bill, even with insurance, and more than one-in-four report they are *currently* struggling to pay an overdue or unpaid medical bill - a number that rises to half for Black voters in the state. In particular, voters cite the cost of insurance premiums and high deductibles as challenges to maintaining affordable, quality care."

Voters want targeted, careful fixes – especially coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic – not a government-run system. Instead, legislation that aligns with their priorities would:



- o Make sure insurance deductibles are low enough that they don't get in the way of getting quality care (92% agree with this).
- o Prevent insurance companies from selling plans that cover so little that it isn't affordable to get care (84% agree with this).
- o Extending postpartum Medicaid benefits from 60 days to 12 months (65% support / 24% oppose). This receives support from a majority of Democrats (77%), Independents (56%), and Republicans (51%).

This new ALG/Bellwether poll was conducted from July 21-July 25, 2021. The online survey sampled 601 registered voters in Delaware.

More information can be found at consumers4qualitycare.org/Delaware

ABOUT CONSUMERS FOR QUALITY CARE (CQC)

Consumers for Quality Care (CQC) is a coalition of advocates and former policymakers working to provide a voice for patients in the health care debate as they demand better care. CQC is led by a board of directors that includes the Honorable Donna Christensen, physician and former Member of Congress; Jim Manley, former senior advisor to Senators Edward Kennedy and Harry Reid; and Jason Resendez, community advocate, and health care strategist.

To learn more about Consumers for Quality Care and the issues consumers are experiencing, visit <http://www.consumers4qualitycare.org/>.