



**For Immediate Release**

August 23, 2021

**Contact:**

[Press@Consumers4QualityCare.org](mailto:Press@Consumers4QualityCare.org)

**Consumers for Quality Care Releases New Research Showing Concern Among Arizona Voters Over Rising Health Care Costs**

*Eighty percent of Arizona voters agree their health care costs seem to rise every year.*

**Phoenix, Arizona** – A new survey of Arizona voters from ALG Research and Hart Research, on behalf of [Consumers for Quality Care \(CQC\)](http://ConsumersforQualityCare.org), reveals voters see affordability and access to quality care as major issues in the state’s health care system and they are seeking relief from rising out-of-pocket costs. Read more about the survey [here](#).

*“This research confirms what many Arizonans have been feeling: the out-of-pocket costs for quality health care are too high,” said the Hon. Donna Christensen, board member of Consumers for Quality Care. “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.”*

Arizonans’ number one concern when it comes to health care is affordability. When asked an open-ended question to describe their health care in one word, most said “expensive.” Sixty-five percent of Arizona voters believe out-of-pocket costs, like deductibles, premiums, and co-pays are the biggest issues they face.

Main insights from the research include:

- Four-in-five voters (80%) agree that the amount they pay for health care seems to be increasing every year.
- Nearly three-tenths of all voters have unpaid or overdue medical bills, including 39% of Hispanic voters.
- Over 60% of voters are concerned about the following: being unable to afford monthly premiums, delaying care because of high costs, and receiving a surprise medical bill; 74% are concerned they can’t afford care because of high deductibles.
- Almost half (48%) said the top priority of policymakers should be reducing the cost of care.
- Over two-thirds (68%) of Arizonans are very concerned or somewhat concerned that COVID-19 survivors will develop serious health problems and may need to pay a greater share of their health care costs.



Although Arizonans are concerned about the rising cost of health care, only 31% of respondents support fundamentally transforming the health care system, including only 39% of Democrats. Arizona voters are instead more inclined to support targeted, careful fixes from their elected officials.

Among the targeted fixes Arizonans support are:

- Nine-in-ten (92%) agree insurance deductibles should be low enough they don't discourage care.
- A similar number (90%) support pricing transparency so consumers can compare for themselves pricing for services and create greater competition.
- Separately, 86% agree insurance companies should not be allowed to sell plans that cover so little that going to the doctor isn't affordable.
- Eight-in-ten (81%) favor an annual cap on out-of-pocket drug costs for consumers.

"Arizonans are feeling the rising cost in health care," said Molly Murphy from ALG Research. "Four in five voters agree that it feels like the cost of health care is rising every year. To address that, they want to see targeted, thoughtful fixes from lawmakers to the health care system as we continue to come out of the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, nine in ten voters agree that that insurance deductibles should be low enough that they don't get in the way of accessing care. Affordability means access to quality care and that's a major issue for Arizonans."

*The ALG Research poll was conducted July 16-21, 2021. The online survey sampled 600 registered voters in Arizona. Overall results were weighted to reflect the composition of registered voters in the state.*

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## **About Consumers for Quality Care**

**Consumers for Quality Care (CQC)** is a coalition of advocates and former policy makers working to provide a voice for patients in the health care debate as they demand better care. CQC is led by a board that includes the Honorable Donna Christensen, the first female physician elected to Congress who served nine terms in the U.S. House; Jim Manley, former senior advisor to Senate Leader Harry Reid and Senator Ted Kennedy; and Jason Resendez, community advocate and leader in the nation's efforts to address brain health disparities.

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

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