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Local Polling Reveals Affordability Is Among Top Health Care Issues for Voters in Nevada

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

Nevada - Nevada voters in ALG Research and Mellman Group's recent [Nevada Poll](#) see affordability as a major issue in the state's health care system. While Nevadans 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 Nevadans 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 Consumers for Quality Care 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 (40%) as the thing they want their leaders to work on most, followed by improving quality (27%), increasing access to coverage (17%), and simplifying navigation of the system (12%). In an open-ended question, there is relative parity between voters who said "good" health care would mean access to good health care providers (42%) and those who said it would mean more affordable care (39%).

According to pollster Mark Mellman with The Mellman Group, "The high and ever-increasing costs of health care are on the top of voters' minds in Nevada. Three-quarters say the amount they pay for health care goes up every year, over seven out of ten voters say that the cost of health care is rising faster than their income, and two-thirds are at least somewhat concerned they'll need to delay seeking care because of high health care costs. This is particularly true for Hispanic and Latino voters, with 74% at least somewhat concerned they'll have to delay care because of high costs.”

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 (87% agree with this).
- o Make it easier to see a doctor (56% think Nevada has too few doctors).

This new ALG/Mellman poll was conducted from July 21-July 25, 2021. The online survey sampled 600 registered voters in Nevada.

More information can be found at consumers4qualitycare.org/Nevada

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/>.