Voters Frustrated by Hurdles Imposed by Health Insurance Companies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers

Top Health Care Issue Ahead of Midterms Are Out-of-Pocket Health Care Costs Imposed by Health Insurance Companies and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)

The most or second most important issue in voters’ minds ahead of the midterm election:

General: Inflation 49%

Health Care: Out-of-pocket costs not covered by insurance such as deductibles, copays, coinsurance and out-of-network charges 32%

Health Insurance Companies and PBMs Pose Affordability Hurdles for Patients

47% Find it difficult to afford out-of-pocket costs not covered by insurance

43% Find it difficult to afford high deductibles set by insurance

81% of Americans say health insurance companies and middlemen, like PBMs, continue to raise costs for patients.

81% Similar numbers (80%) agree that health insurance companies are negotiating for themselves and not patients.
With Knowledge, Concern Grows About PBMs

Voters’ top concerns:

- **81%** are concerned that PBMs and payers receive billions of dollars in rebates and discounts from prescription drug manufacturers, but patients do not always benefit from these savings directly.

- **80%** are concerned that negotiating power is increasingly concentrated among fewer PBMs – the top three PBMs now control 80% of the market.

- **79%** are concerned that payments from prescription drug manufacturers to payers, middlemen, providers and other stakeholders have tripled between 2012 to 2021.

Voters Favor Patient-Centered Solutions that Increase Transparency, Ensure Predictability and Lower Their Out-of-Pocket Costs

The vast majority of voters favor solutions that hold insurers and PBMs accountable.

- **82%** Requiring health insurance companies to be more transparent about what drugs are covered and what patients will pay out of pocket for prescription medicines

- **80%** Requiring health insurance companies and PBMs to share rebates or discounts they receive directly with patients so they pay less for their prescription medicines

- **78%** Requiring all health insurance plans to cover certain medications used to treat chronic conditions with no deductible

As policymakers consider solutions to address patient’s health care affordability challenges, they should recognize that Americans want Congress to prioritize addressing their real concerns – health care coverage, what they pay out of pocket and ensuring savings are going to patients.

Learn more about how we’re working to improve the health care system at:

[PHRMA.ORG/BETTERWAY](http://PHRMA.ORG/BETTERWAY)

This poll was conducted by Morning Consult, on behalf of PhRMA, between April 27–May 2, 2022 among a sample of 2004 Registered Voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Registered Voters based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, home ownership, race by educational attainment, 2020 presidential vote, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.