

12 September 2009

To: Interested Parties

Fr: John Anzalone / Jeff Liszt

Re: Summary of Nationwide Healthcare Polling

There's strong momentum for healthcare reform following President Obama's address to Congress. Likely 2010 voters, especially those who watched the speech, trust the President on healthcare reform more than they trust Congressional Republicans. They think it's important for Congress to pass healthcare reform this year, and are more likely to re-elect a Congressman who's voted for healthcare reform. Voters continue to support a public option regardless of whether they watched the speech.

60% of likely 2010 voters say they watched at least part of the President's speech, and a majority of those who did (54%) are now more likely to support his plan.

Among the 60% of likely 2010 voters who watched all or part of the President's speech, a majority (54%) are more likely to support his healthcare reform plan. Just 37% are less likely. Among all likely 2010 voters, 48% are now more likely to support the President's plan, and just 37% are less likely.

Among voters who watched the speech, 57% say it gave them a better understanding of the President's healthcare reform plan. Just 40% say it did not.

Voters, especially those who watched the speech, trust the President on healthcare reform

By a 45% to 30% margin, voters trust President Obama to reform healthcare in America more than they trust Congressional Republicans. Among those who watched the speech, the President's numbers are even stronger (50% Obama / 27% Congressional Republicans). This isn't caused by viewers skewing Democratic – the Democratic advantage in party identification is almost identical among viewers (+11) and non-viewers (+10).

President Obama's job approval is solid, among all likely 2010 voters (56% positive / 41% negative) and among those who watched the speech (57% positive / 41% negative).

Voters are more likely to re-elect a Member of Congress who votes for healthcare reform

By a 10-point margin, likely 2010 voters are more likely to re-elect a Congressman who supports healthcare reform (49% more likely / 39% less likely).

Two-thirds of voters (67%) say it's important for Congress to pass healthcare reform this year, compared with just 30% who say it's not important.

Most voters (60%) think America's healthcare system needs major reforms (41%) or a total overhaul (19%). That's 23 points higher than the 37% who say the system needs minor reforms (28%) or is okay the way it is (9%).

Voters support a public option regardless of whether they watched the speech

By a 62% to 28% margin, likely 2010 voters would be more likely to support President Obama's healthcare reform plan if it included a public option that gave people a choice between private insurance plans and a public health insurance plan. Among viewers, 64% would be more likely.

Anzalone Liszt Research conducted n=801 live telephone interviews nationwide with likely 2010 general election voters. Respondents were selected at random. Interviews were conducted between September 10-11, 2009 and were apportioned geographically based on past voter turnout. Data are not weighted for partisanship. Expected margin of sampling error is $\pm 3.5\%$ with a 95% confidence level.

Americans United Post-Speech Healthcare Poll

SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2009

N=801

09ALR850B

Q1 Regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself a strong Democrat, a not so strong Democrat, a strong Republican, a not so strong Republican, or an Independent?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Strong Democrat</i>	28%	32%
<i>Not so strong Democrat</i>	10%	8%
<i>Total Democrat</i>	38%	40%
<i>Strong Republican</i>	19%	20%
<i>Not so strong Republican</i>	9%	9%
<i>Total Republican</i>	28%	29%
<i>Independent</i>	30%	28%
<i>[VOL] Other party</i>	1%	1%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know / Not Sure / Refused</i>	2%	2%

Q2 How would you rate the job Barack Obama is doing as President -- excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Excellent</i>	20%	24%
<i>Good</i>	36%	33%
<i>Total Positive</i>	56%	57%
<i>Not so good</i>	16%	16%
<i>Poor</i>	25%	25%
<i>Total Negative</i>	41%	41%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	3%	2%

Q3 In your opinion, would you say the healthcare system in America is okay the way it is, needs minor reforms, needs major reforms, or needs a total overhaul?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Is okay the way it is</i>	9%	8%
<i>Needs minor reforms</i>	28%	29%
<i>Needs major reforms</i>	41%	43%
<i>Needs a total overhaul</i>	19%	18%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	3%	3%

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Q4 If your member of Congress voted in favor of healthcare reform, would you be much more likely to re-elect your member of Congress, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to re-elect your member of Congress?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Much more likely</i>	25%	29%
<i>Somewhat more likely</i>	24%	22%
<i>Total more likely</i>	49%	51%
<i>Somewhat less likely</i>	9%	8%
<i>Much less likely</i>	30%	30%
<i>Total less likely</i>	39%	38%
<i>[VOL] No effect</i>	5%	4%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	8%	7%

Q5 How important do you think it is for Congress to pass healthcare reform this year - very important, somewhat important, not that important or not important at all?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Very important</i>	47%	50%
<i>Somewhat important</i>	20%	18%
<i>Total important</i>	67%	68%
<i>Not that important</i>	16%	16%
<i>Not important at all</i>	14%	14%
<i>Total not important</i>	30%	30%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	2%	2%

Q6 Who do you trust more to reform healthcare in America -- President Obama, or the Republicans in Congress?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>President Obama</i>	45%	50%
<i>Republicans in Congress</i>	30%	27%
<i>[VOL] Both/Same</i>	4%	4%
<i>[VOL] Neither</i>	16%	15%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	5%	5%

Q7 As you may know, President Obama gave a speech on healthcare reform Wednesday night. Did you watch all or part of President Obama's speech on healthcare reform or did you not watch it?

	Total	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Yes, watched all or part of speech</i>	60%	100%
<i>No, did not watch any of it</i>	40%	0%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	0%	0%

Asked of those who responded "No" in Q8.

Q8 Even if you did not watch it, did you read or hear anything in the news about what President Obama said in his speech, either from a newspaper, on television or on the radio?

<i>Yes</i>	62%
<i>No</i>	38%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	0%

ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS

Q9 From what you have seen or heard about the speech, are you more likely or less likely to support President Obama's healthcare reform plan?

	Total	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Much more likely</i>	28%	35%
<i>Somewhat more likely</i>	20%	19%
<i>Total more likely</i>	48%	54%
<i>Somewhat less likely</i>	9%	8%
<i>Much less likely</i>	28%	29%
<i>Total less likely</i>	37%	37%
<i>[VOL] Had no impact</i>	7%	5%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	8%	3%

Q10 Next, I'm going to read you a pair of statements. Please tell which one you agree with more:

President Obama's speech gave me a better understanding of his healthcare reform plan OR

President Obama's speech did not give me a better understanding of his healthcare reform plan

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>President Obama's speech gave me a better understanding of his healthcare reform plan.</i>	45%	57%
<i>President Obama's speech did not give me a better understanding of his healthcare reform plan.</i>	39%	40%
<i>[VOL] Both</i>	0%	0%
<i>[VOL] Neither</i>	3%	0%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	13%	2%

Q11 Thinking about President Obama's healthcare reform plan, if the plan included a public option that gave people a choice between private insurance plans and a public health insurance plan, would you be more likely or less likely to support it?

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Viewed Speech</u>
<i>Much more likely</i>	35%	40%
<i>Somewhat more likely</i>	27%	24%
<i>Total more likely</i>	62%	64%
<i>Somewhat less likely</i>	5%	5%
<i>Much less likely</i>	23%	23%
<i>Total less likely</i>	28%	28%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know</i>	10%	8%

Questions for classification purposes.

E Sex

<i>Male</i>	47%
<i>Female</i>	53%

Q12 May I ask how old you are?

18-24.....	3%
25-29.....	3%
30-34.....	6%
35-39.....	5%
40-44.....	9%
45-49.....	12%
50-54.....	12%
55-59.....	10%
60-64.....	11%
65-69.....	5%
70-74.....	6%
75-79.....	6%
80 years or over.....	7%
[VOL] Refused/ Don't Know/ Not Sure	4%

Q13 Are you married, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been married?

Married.....	65%
Separated/ Divorced	11%
Widowed	11%
Never married/ single	12%
[VOL] Refused/ Don't Know.....	1%

Q14 Do you, or does anyone in your immediate family, happen to come from a Latino, Spanish-speaking, African-American, Middle-Eastern, or Asian background? Just to be sure we're representing everybody, may I ask your race?

Latino / Spanish-speaking / Hispanic	7%
White / Anglo / WASP / Caucasian, etc.....	74%
African-American / Black.....	12%
Asian	3%
Middle-Eastern	0%
Native American / American Indian	0%
Mixed - including Hispanic or Latino.....	0%
Mixed - not including Hispanic or Latino	0%
[VOL] Other	0%
[VOL] Refused.....	1%
[VOL] Don't Know/ Not Sure	0%

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Q15 Which of the following categories best describes your total family income:

<i>Less than \$30,000</i>	16%
<i>\$30,000 to \$50,000</i>	19%
<i>\$50,000 to \$75,000</i>	17%
<i>\$75,000 to \$100,000</i>	15%
<i>More than \$100,000</i>	19%
<i>[VOL] Don't Know/Refused</i>	13%

Q16 Regions

<i>Central</i>	26%
<i>Eastern</i>	30%
<i>Southern</i>	24%
<i>Western</i>	20%

Q17 Regions II

<i>Urban</i>	30%
<i>Rural</i>	16%
<i>Suburban</i>	54%
