

# Public opinion on ‘health care reform’ and abortion

National Right to Life Committee

[www.nrlc.org/ahc](http://www.nrlc.org/ahc)

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Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have approved health care restructuring bills that would create these big new federal programs: (1) a national health insurance program that would be run entirely by the federal government (called the ‘public plan’ or ‘public option’); and (2) a program to provide tax-funded subsidies to help tens of millions of Americans buy health insurance. Under the committee-approved bills, these new programs would cover elective abortion, which would be a sharp break from current federal policy. Recent polls demonstrate strong public opposition to such a policy change.

Polls	Yes	No
<p>“Should health insurance paid for or subsidized with government funding be required to cover abortions, be prohibited from covering abortions, or have no requirements concerning abortions?”</p> <p>13% Required to cover abortions            48% Prohibited from covering abortions            32% Have no requirements concerning abortions            7% Not sure</p> <p><i>Rasmussen Reports, September 14-15, 2009.            (1,000 likely voters, margin of error: +/- 3%)</i></p>	<p><b>13%</b></p>	<p><b>48%</b></p>
<p>“Now, talking just a little about the President’s proposed health care plan which may include creating a public health insurance plan that would be administered by the federal government. As part of this proposed public plan, if the government paid for abortions would this make you more likely or less likely to support the President’s proposed health plan, or would it make no difference to your opinion one way or the other?”</p> <p>8% Total more likely            43% Total less likely            46% No difference            1% Don’t know            2% Refuse</p> <p><i>Public Opinion Strategies, August 30-September 1, 2009.            (800 registered voters, margin of error: +/- 3.5%)</i></p>	<p><b>8%</b></p>	<p><b>43%</b></p>

Polls	Yes	No
<p>“Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements. The first/next one is... ‘If the government is going to make a public health plan available for all Americans it has an obligation to provide abortion services under that plan.’”</p> <p>38% Agree 58% Disagree 3% Don’t know 1% Refuse</p> <p><i>Public Opinion Strategies, August 30-September 1, 2009. (800 registered voters, margin of error: +/- 3.5%)</i></p>	<b>38%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<p>“Regardless of your overall position on health care reform, do you favor or oppose measures that would require people to pay for abortion coverage with their federal taxes?”</p> <p>19% Favor 67% Oppose 12% Don’t know / Unsure 1% Refused</p> <p><i>International Communications Research, September 16-20, 2009. (1,043 adults, margin of error: +/- 3%)</i></p>	<b>19%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<p>“Regardless of your overall position on health care reform, do you favor or oppose measures that would require people to pay for abortion coverage with their health insurance premiums?”</p> <p>32% Favor 56% Oppose 10% Don’t know / Unsure 2% Refused</p> <p><i>International Communications Research, September 16-20, 2009. (1,043 adults, margin of error: +/- 3%)</i></p>	<b>32%</b>	<b>56%</b>
<p>“If the choice were up to you, would you want your own insurance policy to include abortion?”</p> <p>24% Yes 68% No 6% Don’t know / Unsure 2% Refused</p> <p><i>International Communications Research, September 16-20, 2009. (1,043 adults, margin of error: +/- 3%)</i></p>	<b>24%</b>	<b>68%</b>