FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2017

Only 8% of Michigan voters favor repealing the ACA/Obamacare without replacement plan

Republicans, Independents overwhelmingly want replacement before repeal

LANSING, Mich. — Only 8 percent of Michigan voters favor repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA, or “Obamacare”) without the U.S. Congress and President Donald Trump first putting a detailed replacement plan in place, according to a new survey conducted by EPIC-MRA.

As Washington considers changes to or a blanket repeal of the ACA, the survey found 57 percent of Michigan voters — including overwhelming majorities of Republicans and Independents — want Congress and President Trump to put a replacement plan in place before moving to repeal the law. Another 33 percent of Michigan voters opposed repealing the ACA. Nearly one million — or one in 10 — Michigan residents is now insured under the ACA, either by the state’s Healthy Michigan Plan for low-income working men and women, or the state’s insurance exchange.

The statewide survey of 600 Michigan voters was conducted Feb. 4 to 9 and has an error margin of ±4 percent. The questions were tested for the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA).

While 61 percent of Democrats say the ACA should not be repealed at all, 79 percent of Republicans and 63 percent of Independents don’t want the law repealed before a replacement plan is in place, the survey found.

“Support among Michigan voters for a repeal of the ACA is extraordinarily low,” said EPIC-MRA pollster Bernie Porn. “As we have seen in many other polls taken across the state and in other states, a strong majority of Michigan voters don’t want the ACA repealed unless Congress and the president first put a replacement plan in place. In addition, a strong percentage of voters flat-out oppose repealing the ACA.”

The survey also found an overwhelming 81 percent of Michigan voters (including 80 percent of Independents and 67 percent of Republicans) support the State of Michigan or the federal government offering low-cost, comprehensive health insurance to workers earning $34,000 a year or less. The state’s Healthy Michigan Plan, which was created because of the ACA, provides comprehensive health insurance to 654,208 Michigan workers (as of Monday) earning $34,000 a year of less.

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“Michigan voters overwhelmingly agree that the state should offer low-income working men and women the type of insurance available under the Healthy Michigan Plan of Plan,” Porn said.

MHA CEO Brian Peters said the survey provides ample evidence of strong Michigan voter support for preserving the type of health insurance made possible by the ACA.

“It’s quite clear that Michigan voters back the Healthy Michigan Plan, which was created by Republicans and Democrats in our state working together, and don’t want Washington to scrap the ACA without first having a replacement plan in place,” MHA CEO Brian Peters said. “It appears voters agree that improvements can be made. However, they don’t want to throw the baby out with the bath water because they understand that health insurance means access to high-quality care and greater economic freedom.”

Here are the ACA-related questions on the EPIC-MRA survey:

Currently, the U.S. Congress and new President Donald Trump are considering repealing the Affordable Care Act, which could eliminate health insurance coverage and access to medical care for hundreds of thousands of Michigan residents. However, Congress and the President have not yet proposed or approved a plan to replace the Affordable Care Act in a way that will maintain coverage and access for millions of citizens. Which of the following actions do you support the most? [READ 1 TO 3 BELOW]

1. 57% Repeal the Affordable Care Act, but not until a detailed replacement plan is enacted
2. 8% Repeal the Affordable Care Act right away without a replacement
3. 33% Do not repeal the Affordable Care Act at all
4. 2% Undecided/Refused

Should the State of Michigan or the federal government offer a low-cost, comprehensive health insurance plan for adult residents earning $34,000 a year or less, or, should such a plan not be offered?

1. 81% Yes, a health insurance plan should be offered
2. 11% No, such a health insurance plan should NOT be offered
3. 8% Undecided/Refused

Do you believe financial assistance should be available from the state or federal government to lower income residents so they will be better able to afford to purchase health plans for themselves and their families?

1. 78% Yes, financial assistance should be available
2. 15% No, financial assistance should not be available
3. 7% Undecided/Refused