DRUG PRICES ARE AN IMPORTANT MIDTERM ELECTION ISSUE

- Ninety-one percent of voters report that prescription drug prices are an important issue for them in the midterm elections, more than the COVID-19 pandemic (87%), including more than half of voters (53%) who report it is very important.

- Three-in-four voters report that it will impact their vote if Congress fails to pass solutions to lower drug prices, including 40% who say it would have a significant impact.
  
  - This failure to act on lowering prescription drugs could impact the vote of voters across the political spectrum. Eighty-two percent of Democrats, 72% of independents, and 77% of Republicans report it will impact their vote.

VOTERS AGREE BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS MUST DO MORE TO LOWER DRUG PRICES

- Sixty-five percent of voters feel President Biden has not done enough to address to lower drug prices, including a majority of Democrats (51%), independents (68%), and Republicans (78%).

- Similarly, 72% of voters feel Congress has not done enough to address to lower drug prices, including 63% of Democrats, 75% of independents, and 80% of Republicans.

VOTERS BLAME THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FOR RISING PRICES

- When asked who was responsible for rising prescription drug prices, 87% of Voters said the pharmaceutical industry, including 60 percent who said the industry was very responsible.

Methodology: The survey was conducted between January 20 and January 22, 2022 among a sample of 2,005 registered voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.
Voters support market-based solutions to lower drug prices

- A majority of voters support drug pricing solutions being considered as part of the Build Back Better Act. When asked how important it is that Congress pass each of the following reforms:
  - 86% of voters said it was important for Congress to cap out-of-pocket costs for seniors.
  - 88% of voters said it was important to keep price increases below the rate of inflation.
  - 87% of voters said it was important to reform Medicare Part D to make pharmaceutical companies contribute significant cost-sharing in the catastrophic phase of coverage.
- Four in five voters (79%) agree that federal agencies, like the U.S. Patent and Trade Office and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), should encourage greater competition in the prescription drug marketplace.
- Three-quarters of voters (76%) also feel it is important that Congress consider solutions to increase competition in the prescription drug marketplace, including combating tactics like ‘patent thicketing’ and ‘product-hopping.’

Voters blame the pharmaceutical industry over PBMs

- When voters were asked which statement came closer to their opinion, a majority of voters agreed with the statement that placed responsibility on the pharmaceutical industry rather than PBMs.

A majority of voters support CMS’ coverage decision on Aduhelm

- More than three-quarters of of voters (77%) agree clinical value and likely cost should be considered in FDA approval decisions for new medications.
  - Eighty-six percent of voters agree “lawmakers must implement protections to ensure medications approved by regulators have clinical value for patients — in other words, that the medication has strong evidence of supporting positive outcomes for patient conditions it is meant to treat.”
  - Seven in ten voters also agree (72%) the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) should weigh clinical value in deciding how broadly to cover a medication.
  - A majority of voters (56%) agree with CMS’ recent decision to cover Aduhelm only for Medicare beneficiaries who are participating in clinical trials while more data is gathered on the medication’s clinical value, compared to 25% who disagree.

Methodology: The survey was conducted between January 20 and January 22, 2022 among a sample of 2005 registered voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on gender, education attainment, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

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