

>> VOTERS POLLED ON THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TAX

Majority of voters oppose the employee benefits tax



A survey of American voters shows that relatively few voters are aware of what the employee benefits tax, or the “Cadillac tax,” is, but many believe the Affordable Care Act has already made health care less affordable for them. After learning about the tax, a substantial majority are more concerned about it going into effect, and most believe the tax should be repealed or delayed.

- **A majority of voters (52 percent)** say the tax will “harm the quality of health care.”
- **More than three out of four (76 percent)** Americans say they are “more concerned” about the tax going into effect.
- **Nearly one in two (45 percent)** of voters said compared to when the 2010 health care law was passed, their health care is now “less affordable”; **six in 10 voters (57 percent)** say it will get “more expensive” in the long run.
- **Many voters (44 percent)** are unsure of what the “Cadillac tax” is, while **less than one in three (28 percent)** were able to correctly identify it as “a tax on high-cost health plans.”
- After learning more about the tax, **48 percent say it should be repealed**, 18 percent say it should be delayed, and only 10 percent say the tax should be “started as is.”

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS TAX SURVEY | SEPTEMBER 24–27, 2015 NATIONAL SURVEY OF 1,543 REGISTERED VOTERS (ONLINE)

Compared to five years ago when the 2010 health care law was passed by President Obama and Congress, do you think health insurance is more affordable or less affordable today?

MORE AFFORDABLE 26%
LESS AFFORDABLE 45%
ABOUT THE SAME 19%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 11%

In the long run, how do you think the 2010 health care law will affect how much you pay in total health care costs, such as appointment co-payments, monthly premiums, annual deductibles and drug co-payments?

MORE EXPENSIVE 57%
LESS EXPENSIVE 11%
ABOUT THE SAME 21%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 11%

What do you think will be the effects of the tax on these health plans?

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE 10%
HARM THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE 52%
HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE 21%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 17%

Upon learning that the tax on these health plans goes into effect in roughly two years, what should happen with the tax?

STARTED AS IS 10%
DELAYED 18%
REPEALED 48%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 23%

Upon learning that the tax on these health plans goes into effect in roughly two years, what should happen with the tax?

(Among the 28% correctly identifying the “Cadillac tax”)

STARTED AS IS 13%
DELAYED 15%
REPEALED 56%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 16%

After learning more about the tax on these health plans, would you say you are more concerned or less concerned about it going into effect?

MORE CONCERNED 76%
LESS CONCERNED 9%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 15%

To the best of your knowledge, which of the following do you think describes what the “Cadillac tax” is in the United States?

A TAX ON HIGH-COST HEALTH PLANS 28%
A TAX ON LUXURY CARS 8%
AN EXPORT TAX ON LUXURY GOODS 10%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 44%