

From: Public Policy Polling
To: Interested Parties
Subject: **One Year After ACA Repeal Vote, Key Races in Republican-Held Congressional Districts and Senate States Are Up For Grabs**
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One year ago, President Trump and congressional Republicans proclaimed victory with a Rose Garden celebration after narrowly passing a bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through the House of Representatives. Though they were ultimately unable to fully repeal the ACA, approval of the ACA remains higher than disapproval, concerns about the repeal effort have sustained among a huge segment of the electorate, and the electoral damage to congressional Republicans has been lasting, according to new Public Policy Polling surveys in key battleground House districts (CO-3, FL-18, IA-3, ME-2, MI-6, NC-2, and PA-1) and Senate states (Nevada and Tennessee).

Across all of these battlegrounds, pluralities in each of the districts and states surveyed showed higher levels of approval (between 42 percent and 50 percent) than disapproval (between 31 percent and 38 percent), with one exception: Tennessee, where approval matched disapproval at 39 percent for each. However, when it comes to the choice of fixing the ACA or repealing it and starting over with a new health care law, there is a much greater appetite among voters to improve the ACA: between 58 and 66 percent across every single district and state believe that we should make it stronger rather than repealing it and starting over. Moreover, a plurality or majority in each survey agreed that Republicans are trying to undermine and sabotage the ACA because of their failure to repeal it outright, with between 44 percent and 56 percent saying that is the case.

In addition, overwhelming majorities of voters in each of the districts and states surveyed register major concerns about different consequences of the health care repeal effort pursued by Republicans, including:

- Between 62 percent and 70 percent of voters across these congressional districts and Senate states express major concerns that repeal would allow insurance companies to charge people 50 years of age and older up to five times more than younger people for health insurance.
- Between 62 percent and 70 percent of voters across these congressional districts and Senate states express major concerns that repeal would eliminate protections for people who have pre-existing medical conditions.
- Between 59 percent and 69 percent of voters across these congressional districts and Senate states express major concerns that repeal would cause increases in health care premiums by 20 percent.

Finally, it is clear from these surveys that Republicans in these districts – all of whom have voted for health care repeal – are generally viewed unfavorably, will face tough re-election campaigns this fall, and remain burdened by the issue of health care heading into this November’s midterm elections. Some examples include:

- **Current approval rating:** All of the Republicans defending districts or states in this election start with approval ratings below 40 percent (between 27 percent and 38 percent) with one exception (Brian Mast in FL-18, who registered 42 percent approval).
- **Election matchups:** With the election in November just six months away, each of the Republicans face peril in defending seats critical to their House and Senate majorities. Currently, the margins across the House districts range from 2 percent in favor of incumbent Republicans to 5 percent in favor of challenging Democrats. In the two Senate races, Democrats have opportunities to pick up seats currently held by Republicans, with Jacky Rosen and Phil Bredesen narrowly leading within the margin of error.
- **Impact of health care vote:** When voters are asked how their members’ vote on the health care repeal bill care impacts their likelihood to vote for the Republican, far more voters find themselves less likely to support that candidate (between 39 percent and 49 percent) than they are to be more likely to support the Republican (between 28 percent and 36 percent).

Public Policy Polling surveyed seven Congressional districts from April 30-May 2, 2018 on behalf of Health Care Voter, which included Colorado’s 3rd Congressional District (632 registered voters, margin of error: +/- 3.9%), Florida’s 18th Congressional District (631 registered voters, margin of error: +/- 3.9%), Iowa’s 3rd Congressional District (639 registered voters, margin of error: +/-3.9%), Maine’s 2nd Congressional District (647 registered voters, margin of error: 3.9%), Michigan’s 6th Congressional District (709 registered voters, margin of error: 3.7%), North Carolina’s 2nd Congressional District (678 registered voters, margin of error: 3.8%), and Pennsylvania’s 1st Congressional District (676 registered voters, margin of error: 3.8 %). Public Policy Polling also surveyed two Senate battleground states from April 30-May 1, 2018, which included Nevada (637 registered voters, margin of error: 3.8%) and Tennessee (609 registered voters, margin of error: 4.0%).

Each of these polls was conducted with automated telephone interviews.