



From: Public Policy Polling
To: Interested Parties
Subject: **One Year After ACA Repeal Vote, Key Races Like Maine's 2nd Congressional District Are Up For Grabs**
Date: May 4, 2018

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 like Bruce Poliquin has been lasting, according to new Public Policy Polling survey conducted in Maine's 2nd congressional district.

When it comes to the ACA voters are supportive of the law: 46 percent approve compared to just 34 percent disapproving. However, when it comes to 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: 61 percent think it should be made stronger rather than repealing it. Moreover, a plurality (47 percent) agreed Republicans are trying to undermine and sabotage the ACA because of their failure to repeal it. Additionally, overwhelming majorities of voters in ME-2 register major concerns about different consequences of the health care repeal effort pursued by Republicans, including:

- 66 percent of voters express major concerns that repeal would eliminate protections for people who have pre-existing medical conditions.
- 67 percent of voters 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.
- 63 percent of voters express major concerns that repeal would cause increases in health care premiums by 20 percent.

Finally, it is clear from this survey that Bruce Poliquin is viewed unfavorably, will face a tough re-election campaign, and remains burdened by the issue of health care.

- **Approval rating:** Just 36 percent of voters approve of Poliquin's job performance, while 51 percent disapprove.
- **Election matchup:** Poliquin is supported by 41 percent of ME-2 voters compared to 46 percent supporting his Democratic opponent – a statistical dead heat.
- **Health care repeal vote:** 44 percent are less likely to support Poliquin because of his vote for repeal, compared to 29 percent who are more likely to support him.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 647 voters in Maine's 2nd congressional district from April 30-May 1, 2018 on behalf of Health Care Voter. The margin of error is +/- 3.9%. This poll was conducted with automated telephone interviews.

