

TO: BIO
FR: Morning Consult
DT: April 3, 2019
RE: **Understanding Voters' Views on Prescription Drug Costs**

Overall, 95% of voters say prescription drug coverage is an important insurance benefit for them, and a majority (73%) of those taking prescription drugs say it is easy to pay for their medicines every month.

- Among those who are dissatisfied with their health insurance plan, 72% cite out-of-pocket costs, such as copays or deductibles, and 57% cite lack of coverage for preferred medical services, like prescription drugs, as reasons why they are dissatisfied. Premium expenses are cited less often (36%) as a reason for dissatisfaction.

When it comes to concerns about drug costs, it is most important to voters that policymakers lower what people are required by insurers to pay out-of-pocket for medicines.

- A plurality of voters (46%) think it is most important policymakers lower the cost people pay out-of-pocket for their medicines, more important than other possible actions tested. It is less important to voters that policymakers take steps to lower the list prices for prescription drugs (31%).
- A strong majority of voters (76%) support legislation that would cap or limit what seniors in Medicare Part D pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs.

Voters think the best way to lower prescription drug costs is to promote competition.

- A plurality of voters (39%) believe the best way to lower the cost of prescription drugs is to promote competition from more brand-name drugs and lower-cost generic drug, more than other options tested.
 - 30% think the best way to lower the cost of prescription drugs is to cap what insurance companies require patients to pay out-of-pocket.
 - On the other hand, just 17% think the best way to lower the cost of prescription drugs is to impose government price controls.

Voters agree that it is important for the U.S. to seek stronger intellectual property protections in trade deals with other countries.

- A strong majority of voters (75%) believe it's important for the U.S. to require other countries to raise their standards around intellectual property protections.
 - The importance of other countries raising their intellectual property standards in trade deals is on par with the importance of other countries raising their labor (80%) and environmental standards (80%).

Methodology:

These polls were conducted from March 25-27, 2019, among a national sample of 1,995 Registered Voters and March 27-29, 2019, among a national sample of 1,992 Registered Voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Registered Voters based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.