

Public Prefers Obamacare to Graham-Cassidy, 56-33%

Americans by more than a 20-point margin prefer the existing federal health care law to the latest, imperiled Republican alternative – another challenge to the GOP’s long-held effort to repeal and replace Obamacare.

The public supports Obamacare over the proposed Graham-Cassidy bill by 56-33 percent in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll. Intensity of sentiment also is on the current law’s side: Forty-two percent strongly prefer it, nearly twice as many as strongly prefer the GOP plan.

The result is similar to public views on the previous GOP repeal-and-replace effort, which failed in July. Americans preferred Obamacare to that plan by 50-24 percent, again with a 20-point advantage for the current law in strong sentiment.

The latest GOP plan suffered a blow today when Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said he’d oppose it. His decision could be fatal to the measure, as it was in July.

Given that the bill is comparatively little-known, the survey summarized Graham-Cassidy by noting that it would end the national requirement for nearly all Americans to have health insurance, phase out the use of federal funds to help lower and moderate-income people buy health insurance and let states replace federal rules on health care coverage with their own rules.

Notably, nearly a quarter of Republicans (23 percent) and a third of conservatives (31 percent) say they’d prefer Obamacare to this proposal.

Beyond typical political and ideological divisions, there’s a vast racial gap in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Seventy-five percent of nonwhites prefer Obamacare, compared with 45 percent of whites. Age gaps are substantial, with preference for Obamacare ranging from 63 percent of young adults to 47 percent of seniors. Preference for Obamacare ranges from 61 percent among those with household incomes less than \$50,000 down to 48 percent of those with \$100,000-plus incomes. And there’s a big gender gap: Sixty-two percent of women prefer Obamacare; 50 percent of men agree.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Sept. 18-21, 2017, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-23-36 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

1-28 held for release.

29. There's a new Republican proposal to replace the current federal health care law, known as Obamacare. It would (end the national requirement for nearly all Americans to have health insurance), (phase out the use of federal funds to help lower and moderate-income people buy health insurance), and (let states replace federal rules on health care coverage with their own rules). What do you prefer: the current federal health care law, or this Republican plan to replace it?

	---- Current law ----			-- Republican plan --			Something	Neither	No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	else (vol.)	(vol.)	op.
9/21/17	56	42	14	33	11	22	1	5	5

Compare to:

What do you prefer: the current federal health care law, known as Obamacare, or the Republican plan to replace it? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	---- Current law ----			-- Republican plan --			Something	Neither	No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strngly	else (vol.)	(vol.)	op.
7/13/17	50	37	13	24	7	17	4	13	9

*** END ***