

**To: Vincent DeMarco, President  
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, Inc.**

**From: Steve Raabe, President  
OpinionWorks LLC**

**Date: December 4, 2017**

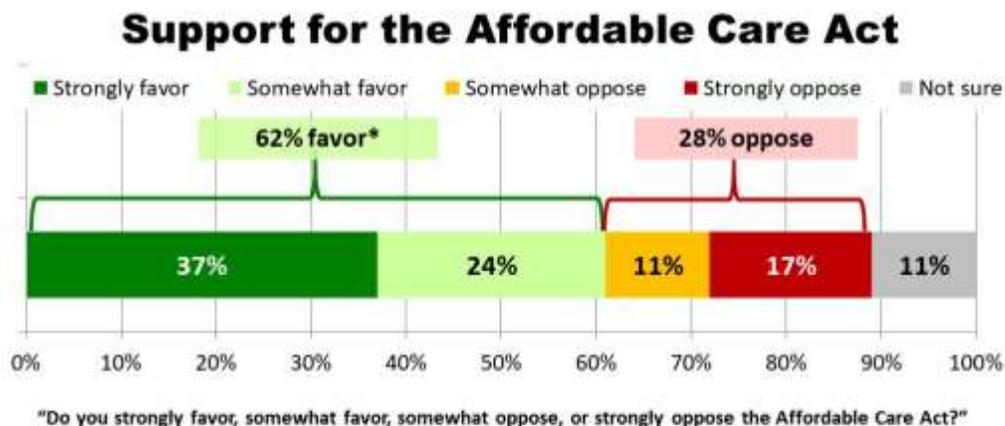
**Subject: New Maryland Voter Poll on the Individual Mandate**

This memorandum summarizes the results of our statewide poll of 850 Maryland registered voters, conducted October 25-November 7, 2017, on topics related to health care. **This poll demonstrates strong support in Maryland for the Affordable Care Act, as well as the specific provision of the law known as the individual mandate. This support for the law translates into a majority of voters who would support legislation to ensure that the individual mandate is enforced in Maryland.**

The survey sample represents the partisan and demographic makeup of the statewide electorate, reflecting their views within a potential margin of error of  $\pm 3.3\%$  at the 95% confidence level. Live interviewers reached voters on both wireless and landline telephones, and a third group of voters were given the option of responding to the survey online to ensure that this poll best represented the statewide electorate.

### Two-to-One Support in Maryland for the Affordable Care Act

There is strong support in Maryland today for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Overall, 62% of Maryland voters said they favor the ACA, compared to 28% who oppose it. Among those who favor the ACA, 37% do so strongly, while 24% said they favor it somewhat. Only 17% of Maryland voters strongly oppose the ACA, while 11% oppose it somewhat.



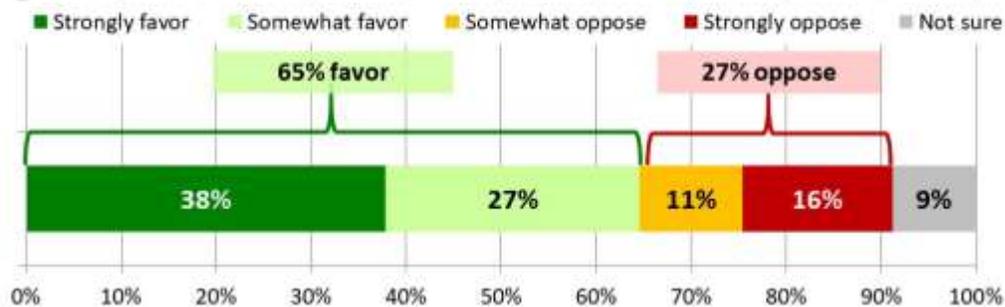
\*Numbers may not always appear to add correctly due to rounding.

Democrats in Maryland support the law by more than five to one (76% in favor compared to 14% opposed), while Independents favor it by a 20-point margin (55% to 35%). Only Republicans oppose the ACA, and not overwhelmingly so (50% opposed to 37% in favor).

### Similar Support for the Individual Mandate

Though often singled out for opposition on the national level, the requirement that individuals purchase coverage, known as the “individual mandate,” proves very popular in Maryland. Among Maryland voters, 65% favor this requirement, while only 27% oppose it. Nine percent said they are not sure.

### Support for the Individual Mandate



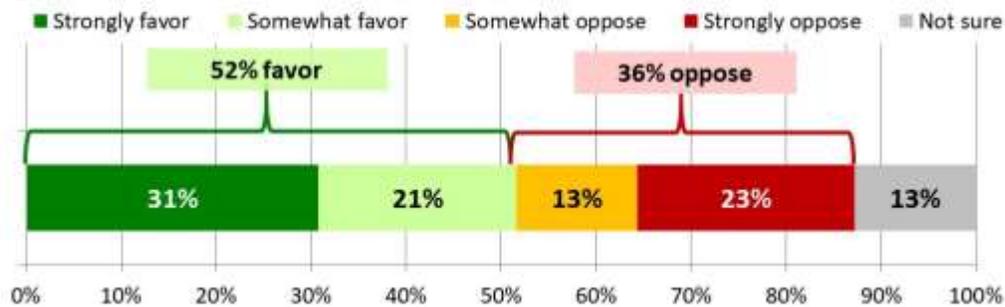
“The Affordable Care Act is intended to keep premiums lower by requiring everyone without health care coverage who can afford it to purchase coverage, including younger, healthier people. This requirement is meant to share the costs of healthcare widely, making the costs of health plans lower. It is sometimes called the ‘individual mandate.’

From what you know, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this requirement that individuals have health care coverage?”

### A Majority of Voters Support Legislation to Ensure the Individual Mandate is Enforced in Maryland

By a 16-point margin, voters favor a proposal “to require Marylanders to comply with the individual mandate to purchase health insurance,” should the Trump Administration fail to enforce it nationally. Support for enforcing the individual mandate in Maryland stands at 52%, with 31% strongly in favor. Slightly more than one-third (36%) are opposed, with 23% strongly opposed.

### Support for Requiring Marylanders to Comply with the Individual Mandate



“The Trump Administration has indicated that it may not enforce the individual mandate, thereby weakening the health insurance marketplace. There is a proposal to strengthen the health insurance marketplace in Maryland by requiring people to comply with the individual mandate in Maryland, even if the Trump Administration does not enforce it nationally.

Would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal to require Marylanders to comply with the individual mandate to purchase health insurance, which is already federal law?”

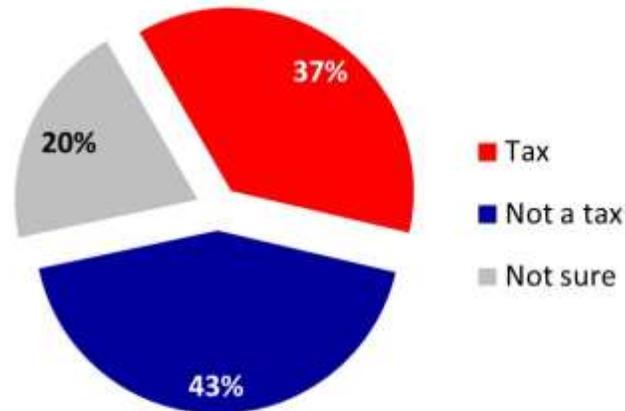
This proposal has two-to-one support among Democrats (60% to 29%), and posts a 17-point margin among Independents (51% to 34%). Only Republican voters oppose it, by a margin of 52% to 34%. Compared to

strong national rhetoric about the individual mandate, this opposition among Republicans in Maryland appears modest by comparison.

### Most Voters Do Not See the Individual Mandate as a Tax

Only 37% see the federal individual mandate as “a tax,” compared to 43% who do not see it as a tax. One in five Maryland voters (20%) said they are not sure one way or the other.

## Is the Individual Mandate a “Tax?”



“Thinking about the proposal to require Marylanders to comply with the federal individual mandate to purchase health insurance, would you call that a tax, or not a tax?”

### Brief Background on OpinionWorks

OpinionWorks conducts frequent opinion studies at the state and local level across the country. Since 2007 we have been the polling organization for *The Baltimore Sun* newspaper in Maryland, and have polled for numerous other media throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We are currently engaged by state and local government agencies in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and New York to assess public needs and preferences. Our recently released Citizen Stewardship Indicator, conducted for the Chesapeake Bay Program, is a model nationally for measuring behavior adoption and potential behavior change on behalf of water restoration. We measure health attitudes and practices for the Horizon Foundation and public health departments across the country. In addition to these public surveys, we assess donor and customer relationships for a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities nationally and internationally, with a growing body of work in Latin America.