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Plurality of Florida Small Business Owners Want Healthcare Reform Law Upheld; Only One-Third Want it Overturned

Opinion polling released today shows nearly half of Florida small businesses believe the Supreme Court should uphold the Affordable Care Act, either as is or with minor or major changes; poll finds strong support for key provisions in the law

June 14, 2012 – Nearly half (47 percent) of small business owners in Florida want the healthcare reform law upheld—either as is or with only minor changes—while less than one-third (32 percent) want the Supreme Court to overturn it, according to opinion polling released today by Small Business Majority. However, once Florida small business owners learn more about the law, their support for keeping it intact—either as is or with minor changes—rises significantly to 59 percent, while opposition falls to 27 percent.

The Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision any day in the case against the Affordable Care Act, filed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and state attorneys general.

“Contrary to popular belief, small business owners in Florida do not want the high court to throw out the Affordable Care Act,” said John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO of Small Business Majority. “They see this law as helping everyone have coverage and bringing down healthcare costs—something that has been one of their top concerns for years. We hope Supreme Court justices understand how important this law is to small businesses who need relief from high healthcare costs.”

Key provisions of the law also have strong small business support, including one of the most crucial components for small businesses—the health insurance exchanges. The Affordable Care Act calls for exchanges—online marketplaces where small businesses can pool their buying power when purchasing coverage—to be up and running in every state by 2014. Seventy percent of owners in Florida say they would use their state exchange or consider using it to provide their employees with health benefits. The majority of entrepreneurs find potential features of the exchange very appealing, including employee choice (77 percent), the exchange educating employees about plans (68 percent) and the exchange providing plans that offer prevention and wellness programs (76 percent). Additionally, a strong majority (67 percent) support Florida applying for federal funds to set one up.

“Why would any small business owner working to stay competitive, and to hire and retain quality employees, want the Affordable Care Act overturned? For the first time ever as a responsible small business owner, I am getting some tax relief for providing health insurance to my employees,” said Hansel Leavengood, DVM, owner of Dale Mabry Animal Hospital in Tampa, Fla.

“Offering health insurance is good business: It lets our employees know that we care about their well-being, and healthy, happy employees are an integral element of our success, especially during these difficult economic times.”

Other key findings from the poll:

- 59 percent of small businesses who support upholding the law believe it should be kept because we need to make sure everyone has health coverage; 37 percent say it's there are advantages to small businesses in the law
- 77 percent support the medical loss ratio requirement, where insurers are required to spend at least 80 percent of premiums on healthcare claims and quality improvement efforts
- 70 percent support “rate review,” where state regulators are allowed to review and approve or reject insurers’ increases they deem excessive
- 78 percent support prohibiting insurers from denying coverage based on preexisting conditions
- 72 percent support preventing insurance companies from basing insurance rates on health status; 76 percent support preventing insurers from charging women higher rates than men
- 67 percent favor allowing young people up to age 26 to stay on their parents’ plans
- 47 percent of small business owners provide insurance to at least some of their employees, but of those who don’t offer it, 68 percent say it’s because they can’t afford it
- Of small businesses who do offer benefits, respondents said the two most compelling reasons to offer were because it helps retain good employees (49 percent) and they felt they had a responsibility to offer it (46 percent)
- Of the small businesses who qualify for a tax credit under the law but are not using it, the vast majority (77 percent) said they weren’t taking advantage of it because they weren’t aware it existed
- Nearly half of all small businesses (46 percent) said they’d be more likely to offer insurance if they qualified for a tax credit, and more than half (51 percent) said they’d be more likely to purchase insurance through an exchange if they could receive a tax credit

To read the full report go online to <http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/small-business-research/healthcare/index.php>

To schedule an interview with John Arensmeyer or a small business owner in your area, call or email Erin Musgrave at (831) 477-0453 or emusgrave@smallbusinessmajority.org.

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[Who is the Small Business Majority?](#)

Small Business Majority is a national small business advocacy organization, founded and run by small business owners, to support America’s 28 million small businesses. We conduct extensive opinion and economic research and work with our rapidly growing network of small business owners across the country to ensure their voices are an integral part of the public policy debate. Learn more about us on [Wikipedia](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We also host the [Health Coverage Guide](#), an independent, unbiased source of information for small businesses about health insurance.