



CBS NEWS POLL

For Release: Monday, September 17th, 2007

6:30 pm EDT

HEALTH CARE AND THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

September 14-16, 2007

As Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton unveils her health care plan today, Democratic primary voters express more confidence in her ability to handle health care than in her chief Democratic rivals, Senator Barack Obama and former Senator John Edwards.

Senator Clinton doesn't seem to be hurt by her past association with a failed health care plan. Registered voters nationwide view that experience as an asset rather than a liability, and few blame her for the lack of health care reform during President Bill Clinton's administration.

HILLARY CLINTON AND HEALTH CARE: NOW AND THEN

61% of those who plan to vote in a Democratic primary express confidence in Hillary Clinton's ability to make the right decisions about health care. 42% say this about Barack Obama, while 39% say they have confidence in John Edwards.

CONFIDENCE IN HANDLING HEALTH CARE

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Confident	61%	42%	39%
Uneasy	28	36	36
Don't Know	11	22	25

In fact, when asked outright whether Clinton would do a better job on health care than her Democratic opponents, 49% say she would. 39% say she would do about the same job, while just 5% think she would do a worse job.

CLINTON VS. OTHER DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ON HEALTH CARE

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

Better job	49%
Worse job	5
About the same	39

Voters overall are more likely to be uneasy about Clinton's ability to make decisions about health care, but more still express confidence in her on the issue than feel confident about the other major Democratic candidates.

CONFIDENCE IN HANDLING HEALTH CARE

(Among Registered Voters)

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Confident	42%	30%	27%
Uneasy	48	47	50
Don't Know	10	23	23

Clinton was appointed by her husband, then-President Bill Clinton, to chair a commission on health care reform in 1993. Looking back, most voters view this past experience with health care as a plus for Senator Clinton. Even though her reform package was never passed by Congress, most voters today - 66% - think her past experience will help her in reforming health care if she is elected President. 77% of Democratic primary voters think the same.

WILL HILLARY CLINTON'S EXPERIENCE WITH HEALTH CARE...

(Among Registered Voters)

	All	Democratic Primary Voters
Help her	66%	77%
Hurt her	25	15

Few voters today hold Hillary Clinton responsible for the lack of health care reform during the Clinton Administration. Just 5% say she was mostly responsible for the failure of health care reform, 52% say it was something beyond her control, while about four in ten don't know enough to say. Democrats and Independents are more likely than Republicans to say the lack of health care reform was beyond her control.

WAS HILLARY CLINTON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LACK OF HEALTH CARE REFORM IN THE 1990S?

(Among Registered Voters)

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dem. Primary Voters
Mostly responsible	5%	8%	3%	5%	5%
Beyond her control	52	45	57	53	55
Don't know enough	39	45	37	38	36

In 1993 and 1994, Clinton was criticized for not compromising more to help get health care reform enacted. Today, 54% of registered voters say that if Clinton is elected president she will be able to compromise with others in government. But slightly more (59%) say this about Obama.

IF ELECTED, WILL ... BE ABLE TO COMPROMISE WITH OTHERS

(% saying "Yes")

	All Voters	Dem. Primary Voters
Clinton	54%	70%
Obama	59%	68%
Edwards	52%	65%

Hillary Clinton & Health Care 1993-1994

In February 1993, shortly after President Bill Clinton appointed Hillary Clinton to chair his health care commission, most Americans (61%) believed Hillary Clinton was qualified for the job and, in addition, 45% thought health care reform was more likely to occur with Hillary Clinton heading the effort.

IS HILLARY CLINTON QUALIFIED TO HEAD HEALTH CARE COMMISSION?

	<i>CBS/NYT</i>
	2/1993
Yes	61%
No	22

The health care bill was presented to Congress in November 1993 and was met with criticism from both Democrats and Republicans. By September 1994, only 24% of Americans thought health care reform was more likely to happen with Hillary Clinton in charge.

HOW LIKELY IS HEALTH CARE REFORM WITH HILLARY CLINTON IN CHARGE?

	<i>CBS/NYT</i>	<i>CBS</i>	<i>CBS/NYT</i>
	9/1994	8/1993	2/1993
More likely	24%	34%	45%
Less likely	35	11	6
No difference	38	50	40

But even in 1994, the public didn't completely blame her for the failure of health care reform. According to a CBS News Poll conducted in November 1994, 43% said Hillary Clinton's handling of the health care commission was a reason health care reform was not enacted, but 49% disagreed.

WAS HAVING HILLARY CLINTON IN CHARGE ONE OF THE REASONS HEALTH CARE REFORM DID NOT PASS?

	<i>CBS</i>
	11/1994
Yes	43%
No	49

THE STATE OF HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. TODAY

The American public continues to be dissatisfied with the quality of health care in the U.S., and even more are displeased about the cost. 66% are very or somewhat dissatisfied with the quality of health care in the country, while 81% feel that way about the cost.

SATISFACTION WITH HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S.

	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Very satisfied	11%	4%
Somewhat satisfied	21	12
Somewhat dissatisfied	24	23
Very dissatisfied	42	58

In addition, 76% think the fact that many Americans do not have health insurance is a very serious problem for the U.S.

8% of Americans volunteer health care as the most important problem facing the country right behind the war in Iraq (28%) and the economy and jobs (16%).

In terms of achieving complete coverage nationwide, more Americans think a government-run system would be better for the nation than the current one. When asked to choose between keeping the current health care system, with insurance provided by private employers and some people having no insurance, or having a government-run system that provided universal coverage, 55% opt for a government-run system - a higher percentage than earlier this year.

WHICH WOULD BE BETTER...?

	Now	2/2007
Government-run system, with universal coverage	55%	47%
Current private system, with many uninsured	29	38

THE RACE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

Hillary Clinton continues to lead Barack Obama and John Edwards in a hypothetical three-way race for the Democratic nomination. There has been little change since last month.

CHOICE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Now	Last Week	8/07
Clinton	43%	44%	45%
Obama	22	26	25
Edwards	16	17	14
Someone else	7	6	7

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 706 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone September 14-16, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

CBS NEWS POLL
Health Care and the Democratic Presidential Campaign
September 14-16, 2007

q10 Thinking about the country as a whole, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of health care in this country?
 Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				Feb07b
	Total	**** Party ID ****			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Very satisfied	11	22	5	9	11
Somewhat satisfied	21	36	15	15	27
Somewhat dissatisfied	24	18	23	29	29
Very dissatisfied	42	22	55	44	28
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	5

q11 Thinking about the country as a whole, are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the COST of health care in this country?
 Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

Very satisfied	4	10	1	4	3
Somewhat satisfied	12	22	9	9	11
Somewhat dissatisfied	23	23	22	24	22
Very dissatisfied	58	43	67	60	59
DK/NA	3	2	1	3	5

q13 How serious a problem is it for the United States that many Americans do not have health insurance -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	76	55	94	73	70
Somewhat serious	16	28	6	18	25
Not too serious	5	11	0	4	3
Not at all serious	3	6	0	3	1
DK/NA	0	0	0	2	1

q15 Which do you think would be better for the country: 1. having one health insurance program covering all Americans that would be administered by the government and paid for by taxpayers, OR 2. Keeping the current system where many people get their insurance from private employers and some have no insurance?

One program for all	55	43	67	52	47
Current system	29	47	17	28	38
Combination (Vol.)	3	2	3	5	4
Neither (Vol.)	4	1	6	4	2
DK/NA	9	6	7	11	9

q32 Suppose the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2008 comes down to a choice among Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John Edwards. Who would you most like to see nominated -- Clinton, Obama, Edwards, or would you rather see someone else nominated?

	* DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS *	Sep07a
	%	%
Clinton	43	44
Obama	22	26
Edwards	16	17
Richardson	0	0
Dodd	0	0
Biden	0	0
Kucinich	1	1
Gore	0	0
Someone else/None	6	5
Undecided (Vol.)	7	4
DK/NA	5	3

q37 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, do you have confidence in Hillary Clinton's ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about her approach?

	**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Confident	42	11	71	34	36
Uneasy	48	86	21	50	51
DK/NA	10	3	8	16	13

q38 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, do you have confidence in John Edwards' ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	27	12	41	22	22
Uneasy	50	73	36	48	50
DK/NA	24	14	24	30	28

q39 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, do you have confidence in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about health care or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	30	17	38	32	25
Uneasy	47	64	40	42	44
DK/NA	23	19	22	26	31

q40 If Hillary Clinton is elected President, do you think she will be able to compromise with other people in government in order to get things done, or not?

Yes	54	27	77	50
No	35	68	14	35
DK/NA	10	5	9	15

q41 If Barack Obama is elected President, do you think he will be able to compromise with other people in government in order to get things done, or not?

**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****

**** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	59	45	65	62
No	24	39	19	18
DK/NA	18	17	16	20

q42 If John Edwards is elected President, do you think he will be able to compromise with other people in government in order to get things done, or not?

Yes	52	43	60	51
No	27	43	21	23
DK/NA	20	14	19	25

q49 During President Bill Clinton's administration, Hillary Clinton proposed health care reform that was never passed by Congress. Do you think Hillary Clinton's past experience with health care would help her or hurt her in reforming health care if she becomes President?

Help her	66	45	82	62
Hurt her	25	48	9	26
No effect (Vol.)	2	1	4	2
DK/NA	7	6	5	10

q50 Looking back, do you think Hillary Clinton was mostly responsible for the lack of health care reform during the Clinton Administration, was that mostly something beyond her control, or don't you know enough to say?

Mostly responsible	5	8	3	5
Mostly beyond her control	52	45	57	53
Don't know enough to say	39	45	37	38
DK/NA	4	2	3	4

q51 Compared to the other candidates running for the Democratic party's nomination, do you think Hillary Clinton would do a better job handling the issue of health care, a worse job, or about the same job on health care as the other Democratic candidates?

* DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS *

	%
Better	49
Worse	5
Same	39
DK/NA	7

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	706	
Republicans	194	182 (26%)
Democrats	239	244 (34%)
Independents	273	280 (40%)
Registered Voters	635	585
Democratic Primary Voters	284	289