



NORTH STAR OPINION RESEARCH

# Crossroads GPS National Survey of Registered Voters Regarding Health Care

June 2-5, 2013

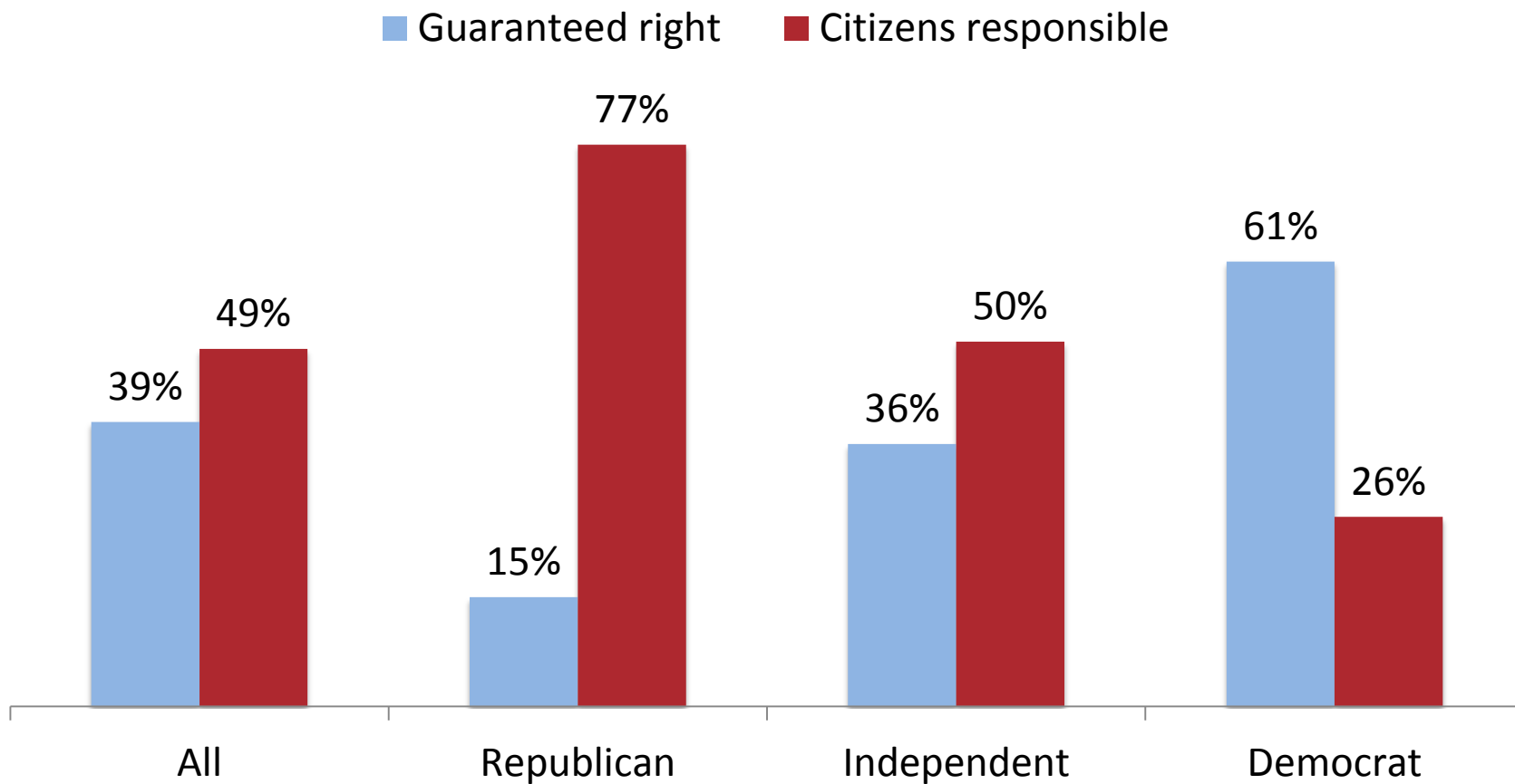


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# Current Attitudes Toward the Health Care Reform Law

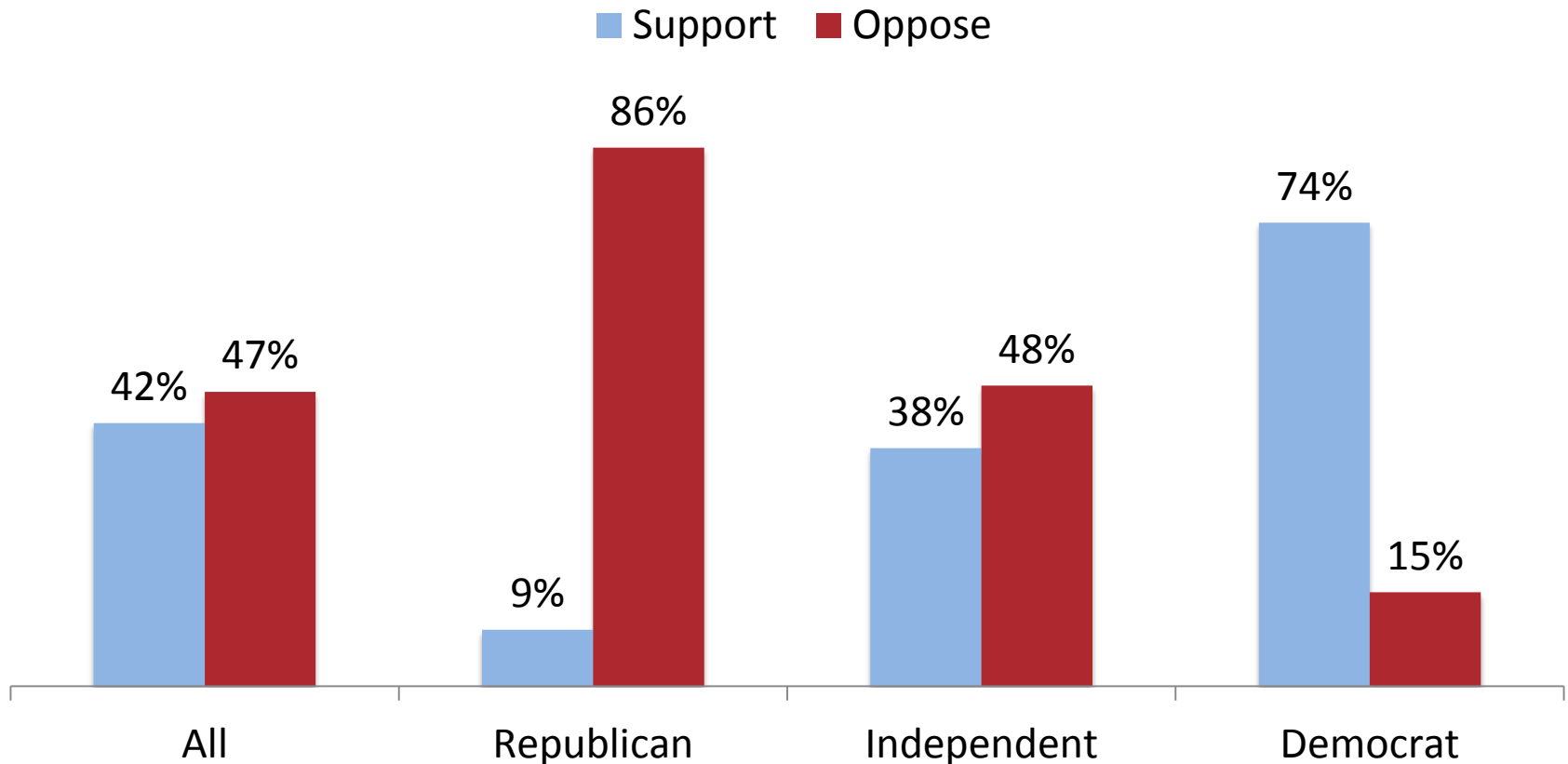
# Democrats think health care is a right, but Republicans and Independents think it's a citizen's responsibility.

*In general, do you view health care as a right guaranteed to all citizens by the federal government, or is it something that citizens should be primarily responsible for providing for themselves?*



# Voters oppose the health care reform law by five points, identical to our last survey in March.

*Do you support or oppose the health care reform law that passed in 2010, also known as the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare?*



# Positive Words About the law

*When you think about that health care reform law, what one word comes to your mind first?*



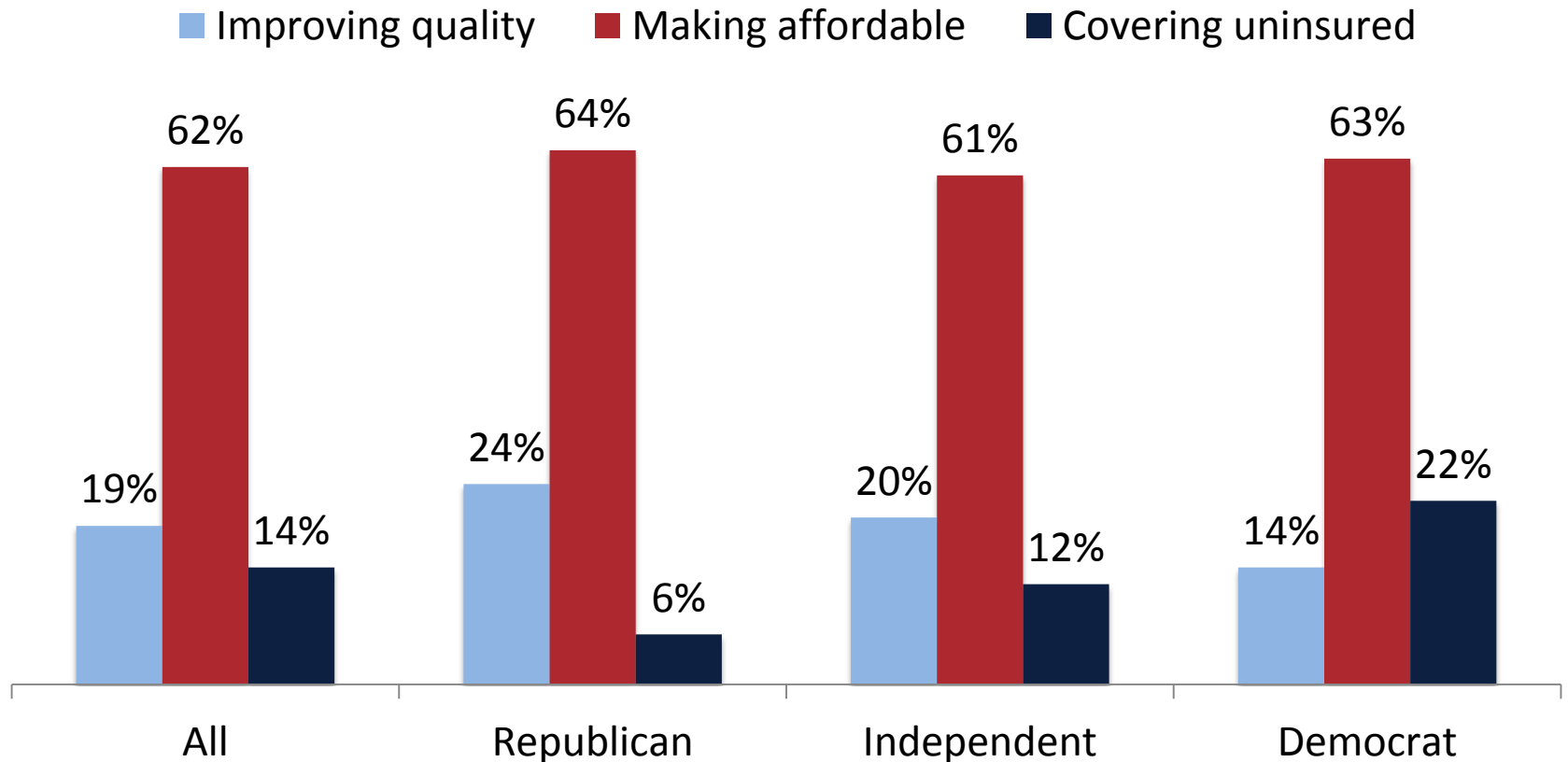
# Negative Words About the Law

*When you think about that health care reform law, what one word comes to your mind first?*



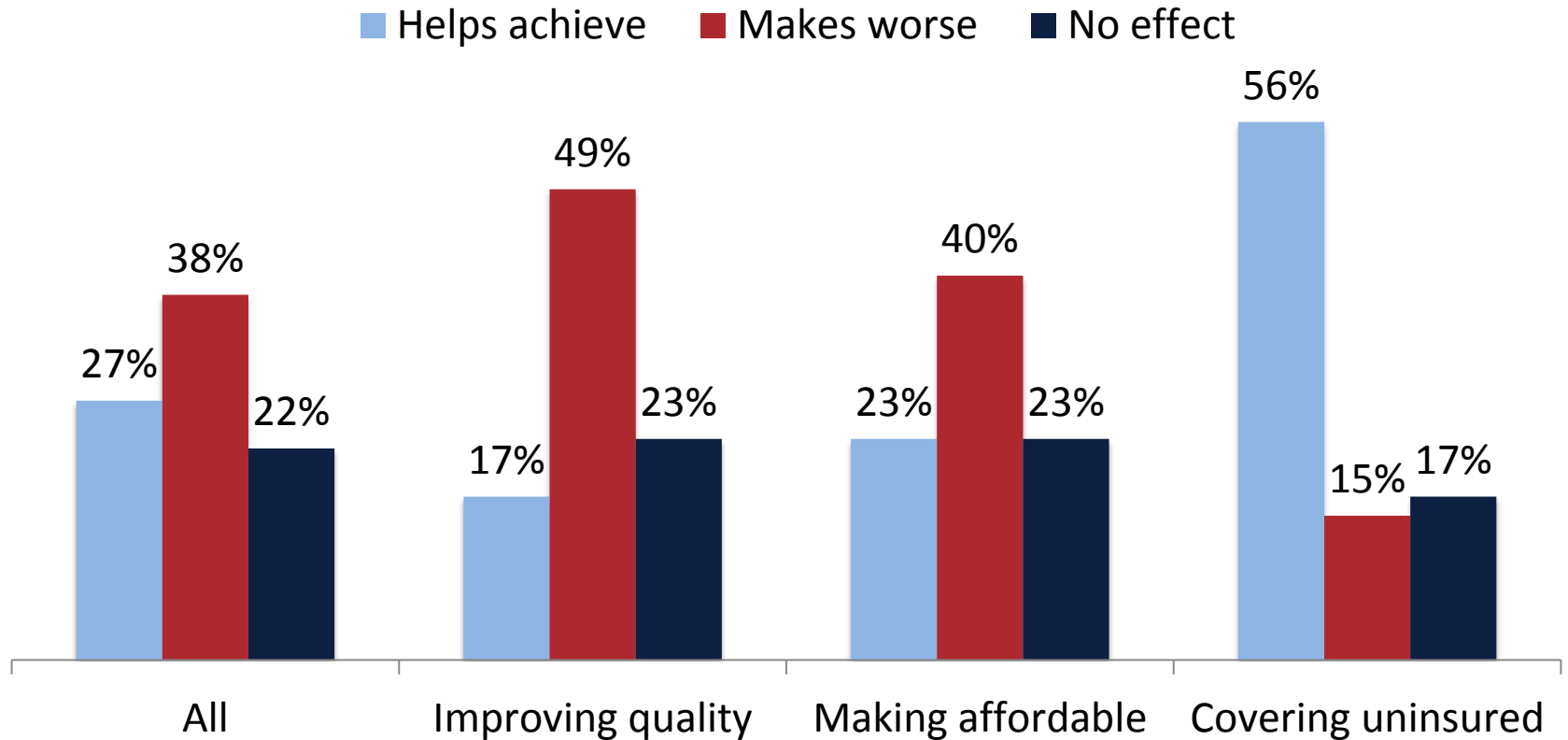
# Making health care more affordable overwhelmingly remains the highest priority.

*Which of the following do you think should be the top priority for health care in America today (ROTATE: improving the quality of health care, making health care more affordable, or covering the uninsured)?*



# Only people who think covering the uninsured is the highest priority think the law helps achieve that goal.

*Thinking specifically about that top priority, would you say the health care reform law passed in 2010 (ROTATE: helps achieve that priority, makes things worse) or has no effect on that priority?*

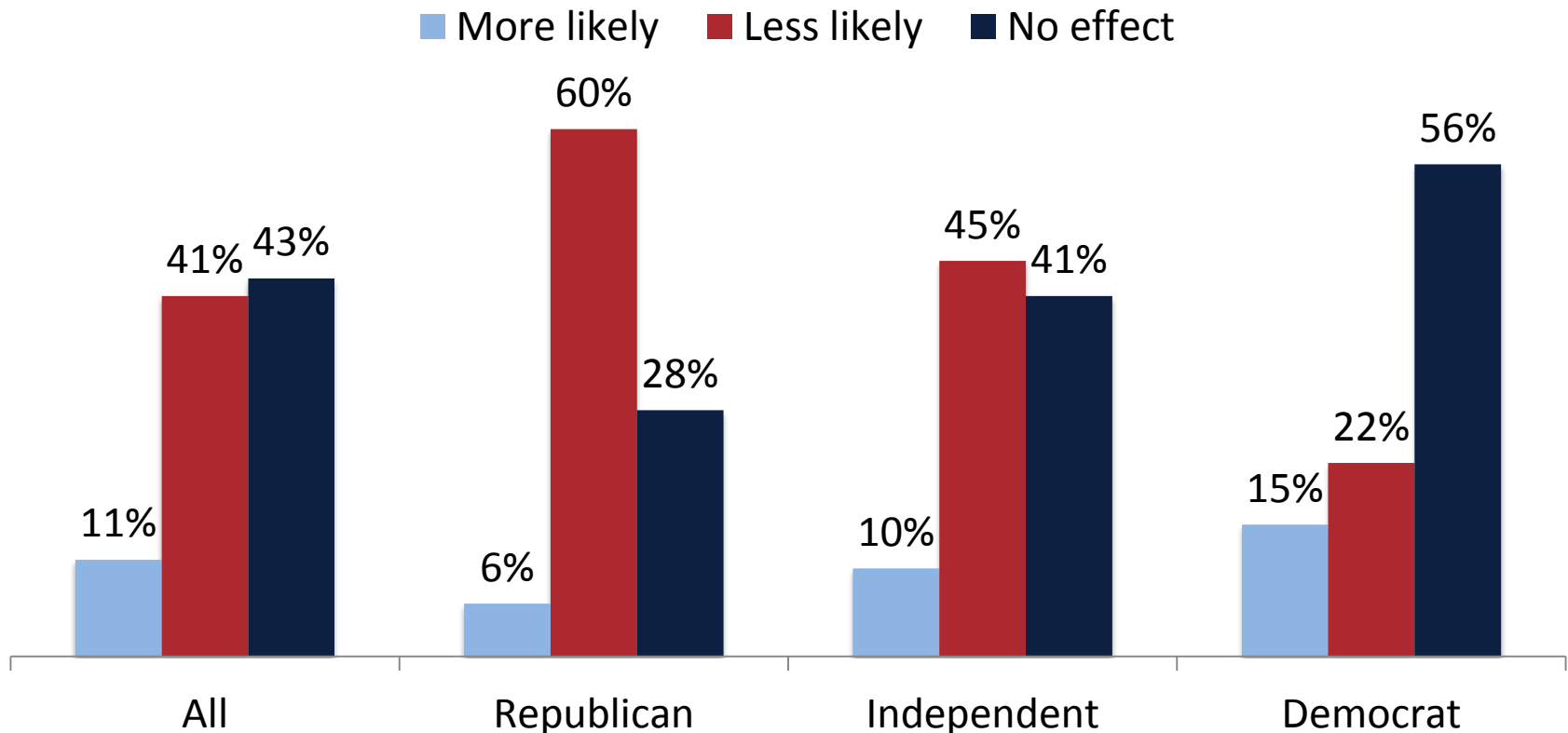


Note: Results are based on 947 respondents who name a top priority.



# Knowing about the IRS' role in enforcement makes four out of ten voters less likely to support the law.

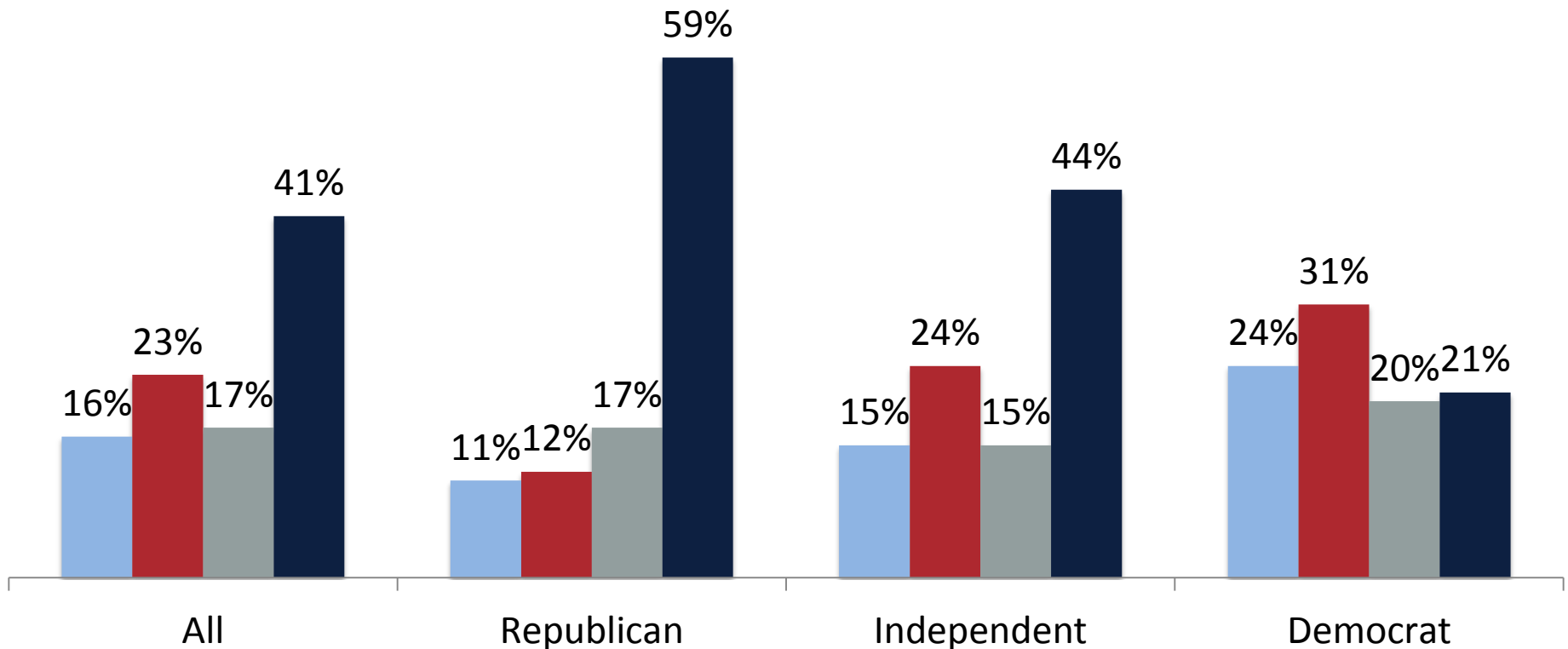
*Under the new health care law, the Internal Revenue Service is responsible for enforcing the mandate to carry health insurance, fining people who don't carry insurance, and determining eligibility for subsidies. Does knowing the IRS' role in the health care law make you more likely to support the law, less likely to support the law, or does it have no effect on your support of the law?*



# Voters have little or no trust in the IRS keeping their health care information private.

*How much trust do you have in the IRS managing a database that includes your personal tax and health information and keeping your information private: a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?*

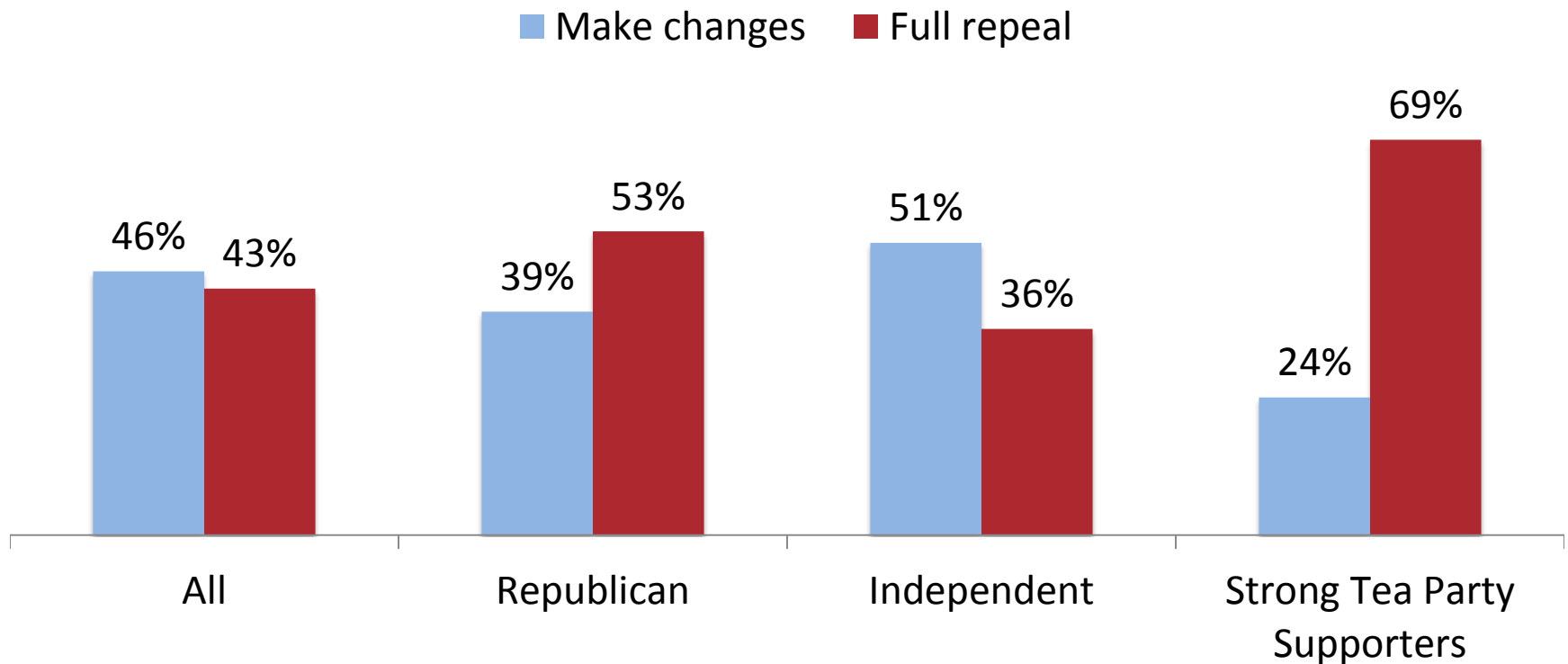
■ Great deal ■ Some ■ Not much ■ None



# Republicans and Independents initially split on whether trying for full repeal is a waste of time. . .

*Which of the following comes closest to your view about the health care law known as the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare:*

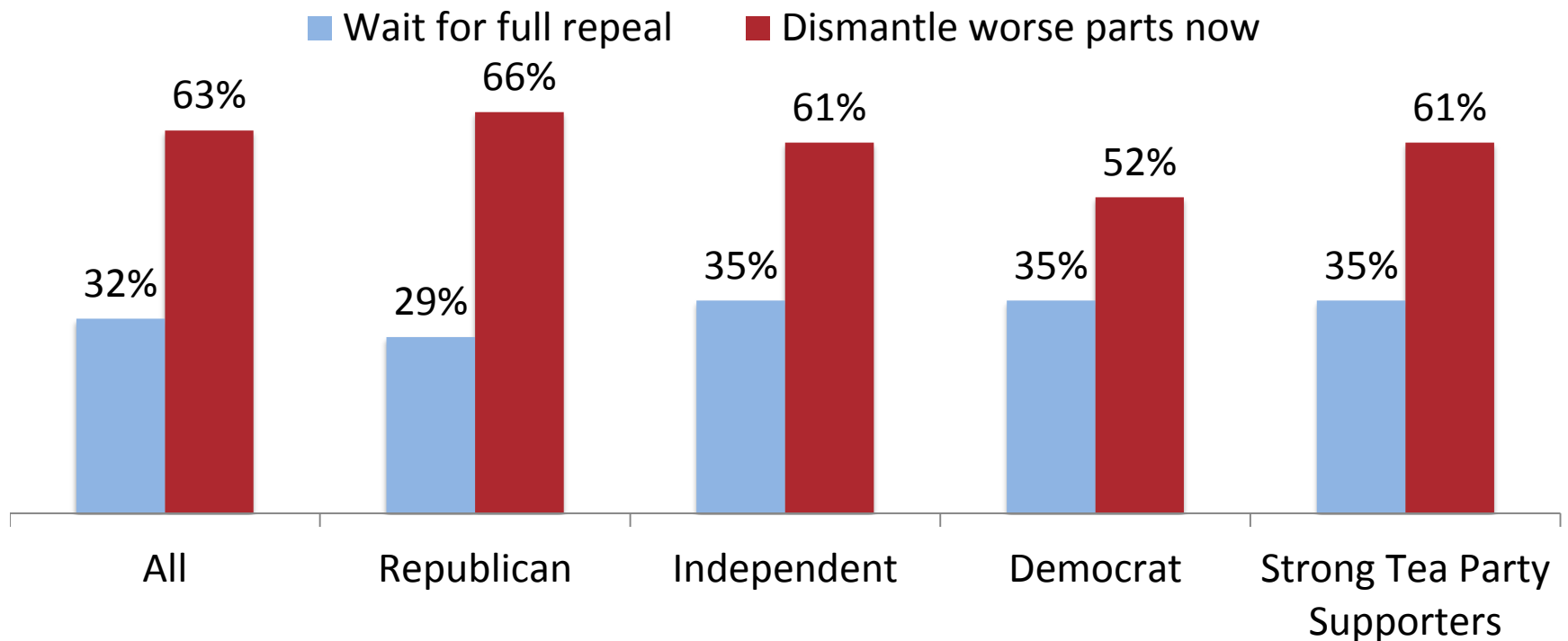
- a) As long as President Obama is in office, Republicans should concentrate on making changes to the law that can pass a Democratic Senate and get signed. Trying to repeal the law right now is a waste of time since President Obama will veto any repeal of his signature law;*
- b) Republicans should keep trying to repeal the law even though Democrats and President Obama will block it. Any small changes that are enacted now will only legitimize the law and make it harder to repeal later.*



Note: Results are based on 607 Republican and Independent respondents.

. . .but after discussing specific aspects of the law, large majorities of the law's opponents want to dismantle the worst parts now rather than wait for full repeal.

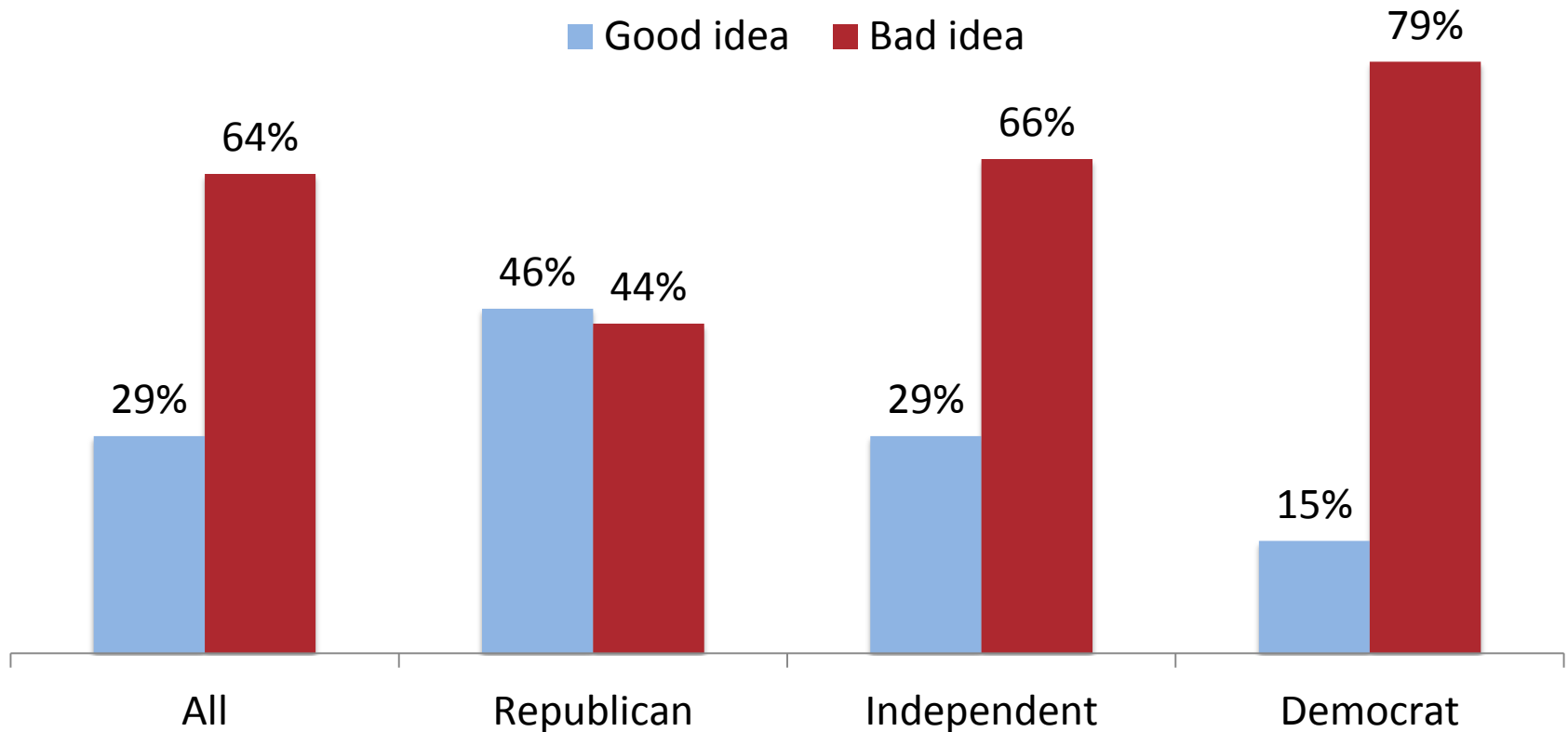
*Which of the following comes closest to your view about the best way to stop ObamaCare from harming the health care system: a) Opponents of the law should not try to fix the worst parts of ObamaCare now, but wait until they are in a position to repeal the entire law at once. Dismantling it piece-by-piece will only improve ObamaCare and reduce the pressure to get rid of the law entirely; b) Opponents of the law should force action to dismantle the worst parts of ObamaCare now, because the earliest they could fully repeal the law would be in 2017 after Obama leaves office, and once the law is implemented it will be even harder to get rid of.*



Note: Results are based on 468 respondents who oppose ACA/ObamaCare.

# But risking a government shutdown to repeal the law is a non-starter.

*Some people say that the health care reform law is so bad that an effort to repeal it should be attached to a bill necessary to keep the government running. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for opponents of the health care reform law to risk shutting down the government in an effort to get rid of the law?*





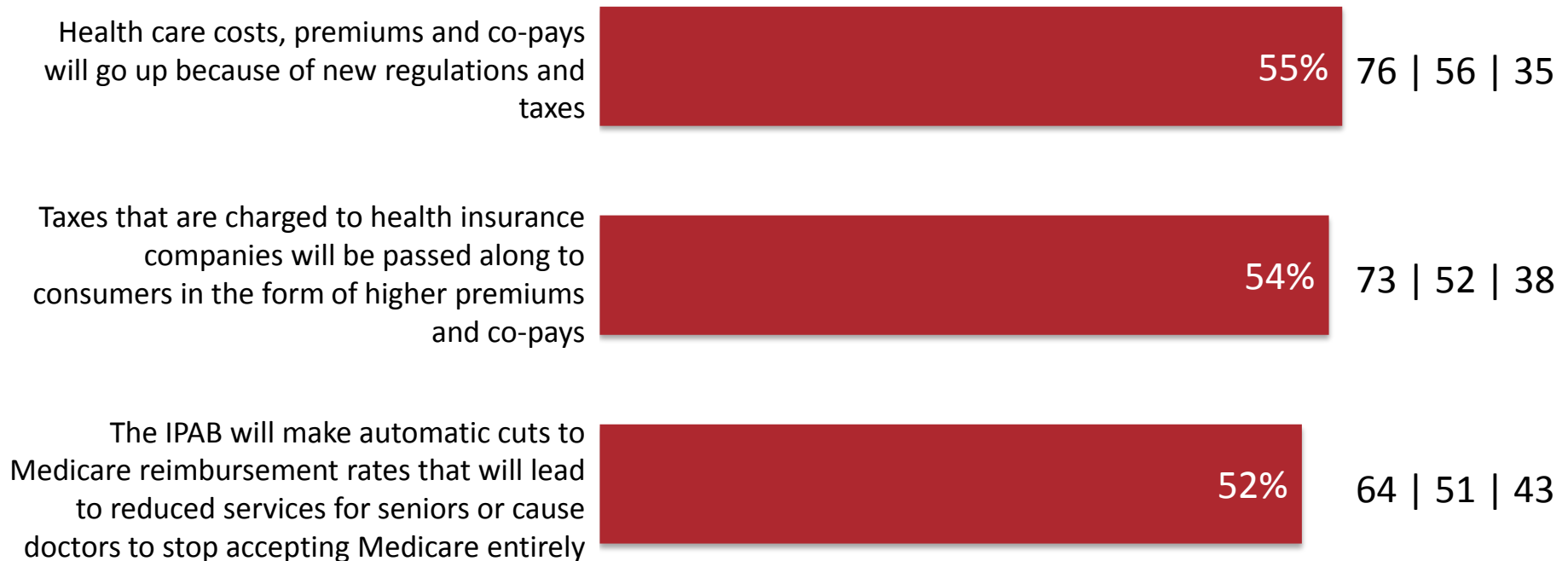
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# Possible Effects of the Health Care Reform Law

# Top-tier concerns about possible effects focus on higher costs, higher taxes, and reduced services for seniors.

*Now I would like to read you a list of possible outcomes when the health care reform law passed in 2010 is implemented next year. For each of the following, please tell me if that outcome concerns you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all:*

Ranked By % "Great Deal"  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem



# Second-tier concerns focus on losing employer-provided coverage.

*Now I would like to read you a list of possible outcomes when the health care reform law passed in 2010 is implemented next year. For each of the following, please tell me if that outcome concerns you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all:*

Ranked By % “Great Deal”  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem

Millions of Americans will be dropped from their employer health insurance plans because of the new law and will be forced into government-run insurance pools

49% 69 | 51 | 32

As health insurance becomes more expensive employers will choose to pay a penalty instead of providing private insurance, and people will be forced into Medicaid coverage

44% 64 | 45 | 24

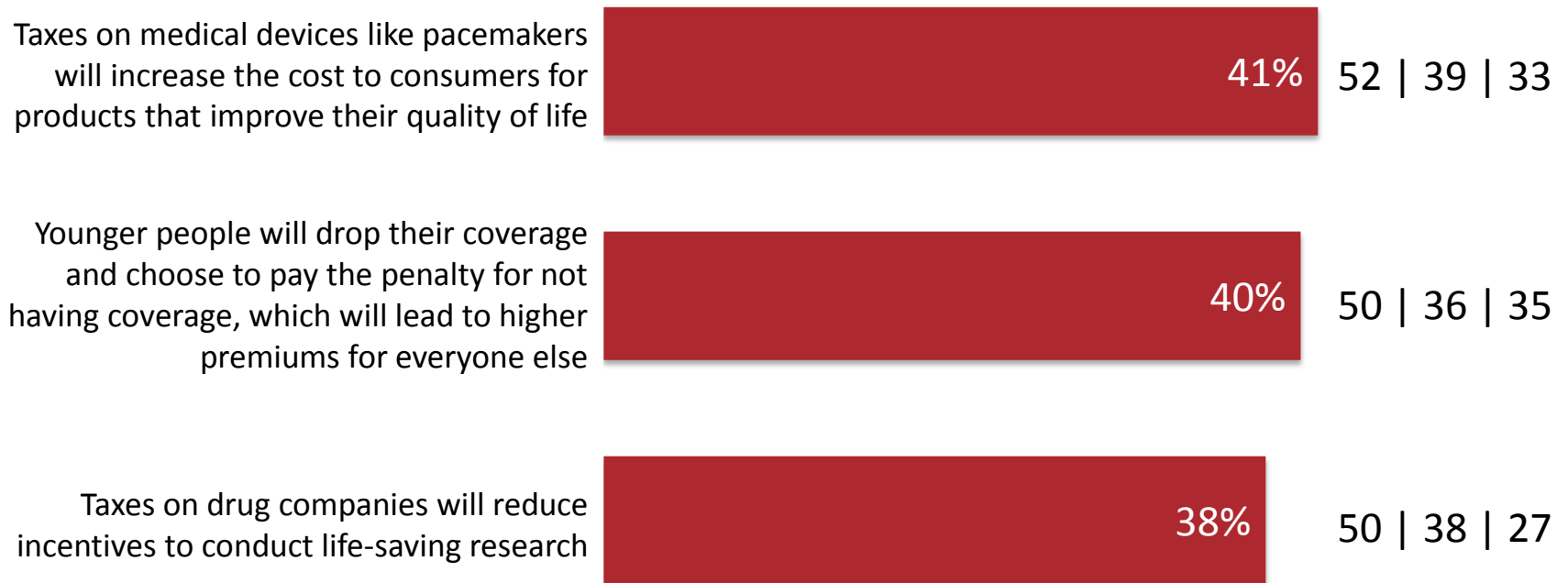
Note: Results are based on 500 respondents each.



# Third-tier concerns focus on new taxes and young people dropping coverage.

*Now I would like to read you a list of possible outcomes when the health care reform law passed in 2010 is implemented next year. For each of the following, please tell me if that outcome concerns you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all:*

Ranked By % "Great Deal"  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem





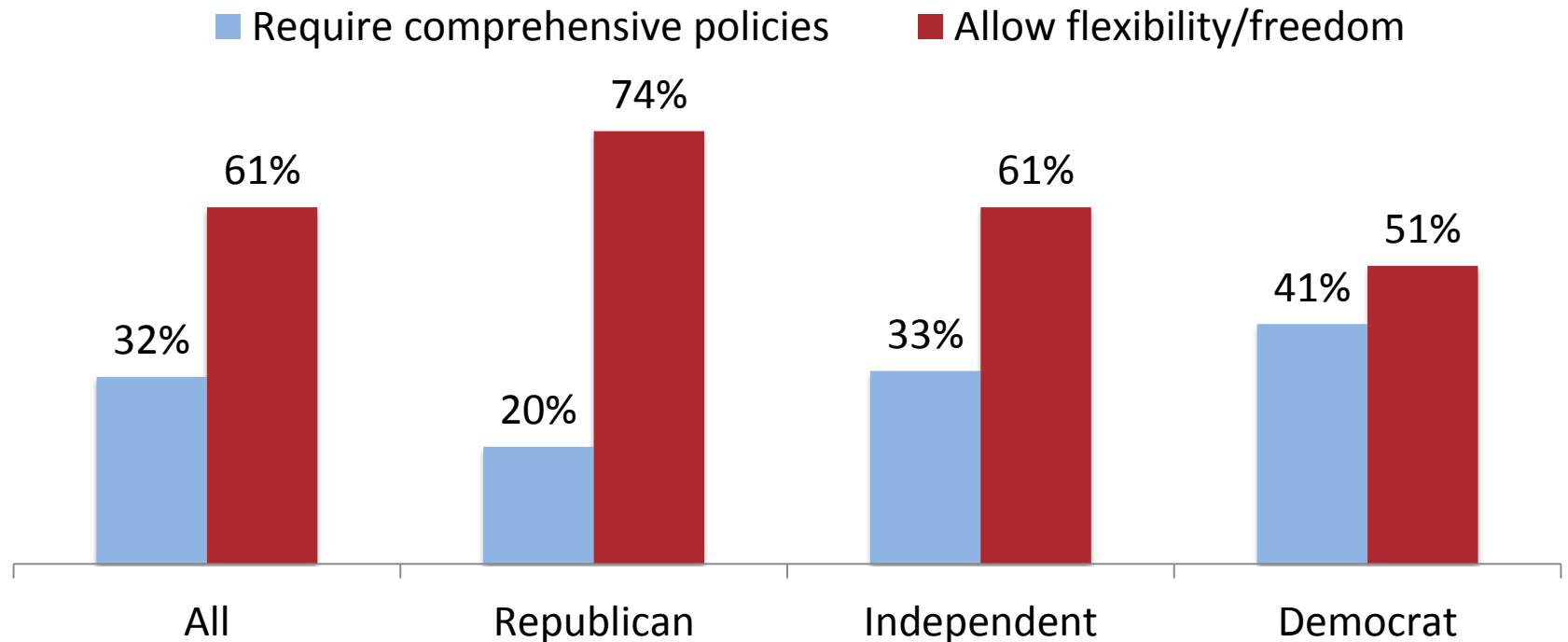
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# Support for Alternative Health Care Reforms

# Majorities of all three partisan groups believe affordable policies are more important than comprehensive policies.

*Which of the following comes closest to your view about the health care law passed in 2010:*

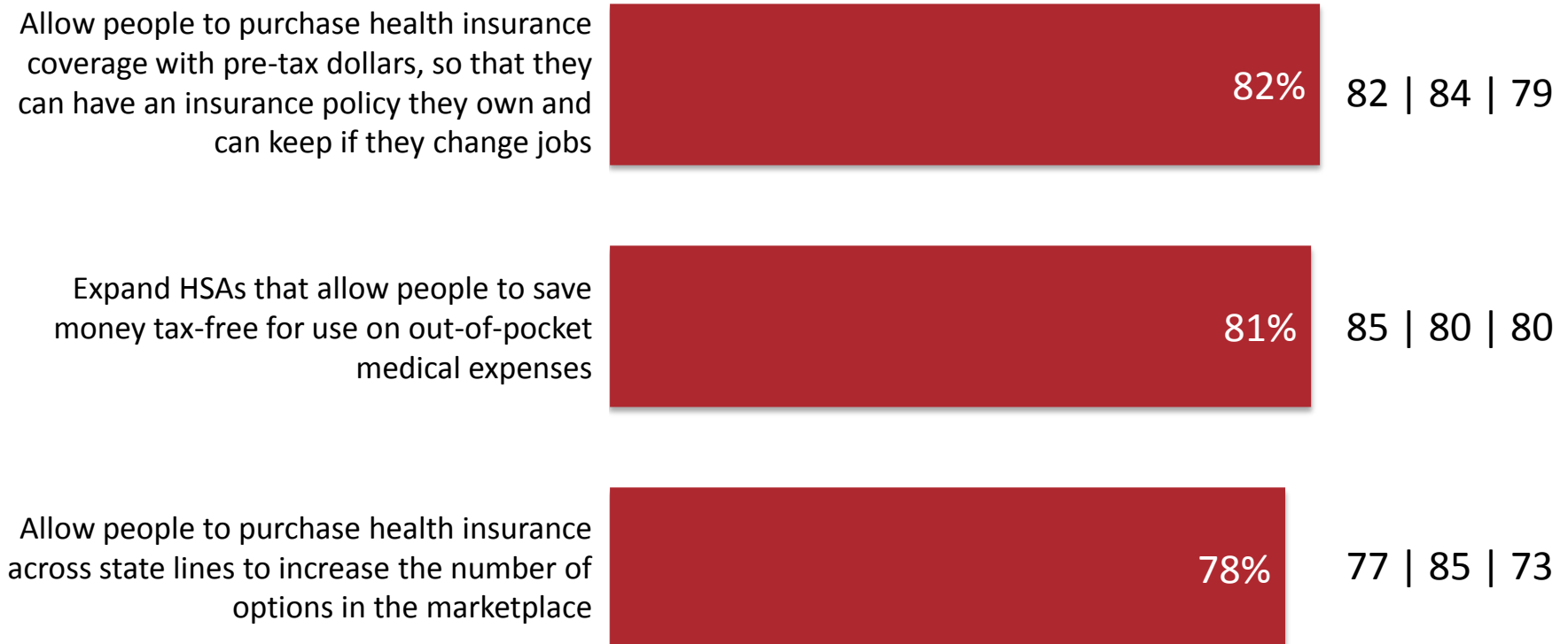
- a) We should require that all health insurance policies be comprehensive, covering routine doctor visits and medicines, even though those policies have higher premiums. People do not know what health care needs they will have, and all Americans deserve this level of coverage.*
- b) We should allow Americans the flexibility and freedom to buy insurance policies they can afford, even if those policies have more limited coverage. Some people may want just catastrophic coverage for major illnesses and hospital stays, but not for routine doctor visits or medicines.*



# Top-tier alternative health care reforms all expand individual choice.

*Now I would like to ask you about several proposals some people have made to reform health care. For each of the following, please tell me if you support or oppose that proposal:*

Ranked by % Support  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem



# Second-tier reforms all make health care reform more affordable, especially for young people.

*Now I would like to ask you about several proposals specifically to change the health care law passed in 2010. For each of the following, please tell me if you support or oppose that proposal:*

Ranked By % Support  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem

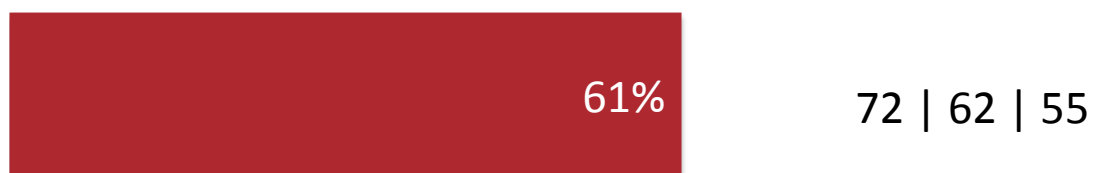
Allow the new health insurance exchanges to sell cheaper catastrophic coverage policies that cover major expenses but not routine care making them more affordable for young and lower income people



Eliminate the new tax on medical devices like pacemakers, MRIs, and ultrasound machines to lower costs and help American manufacturing



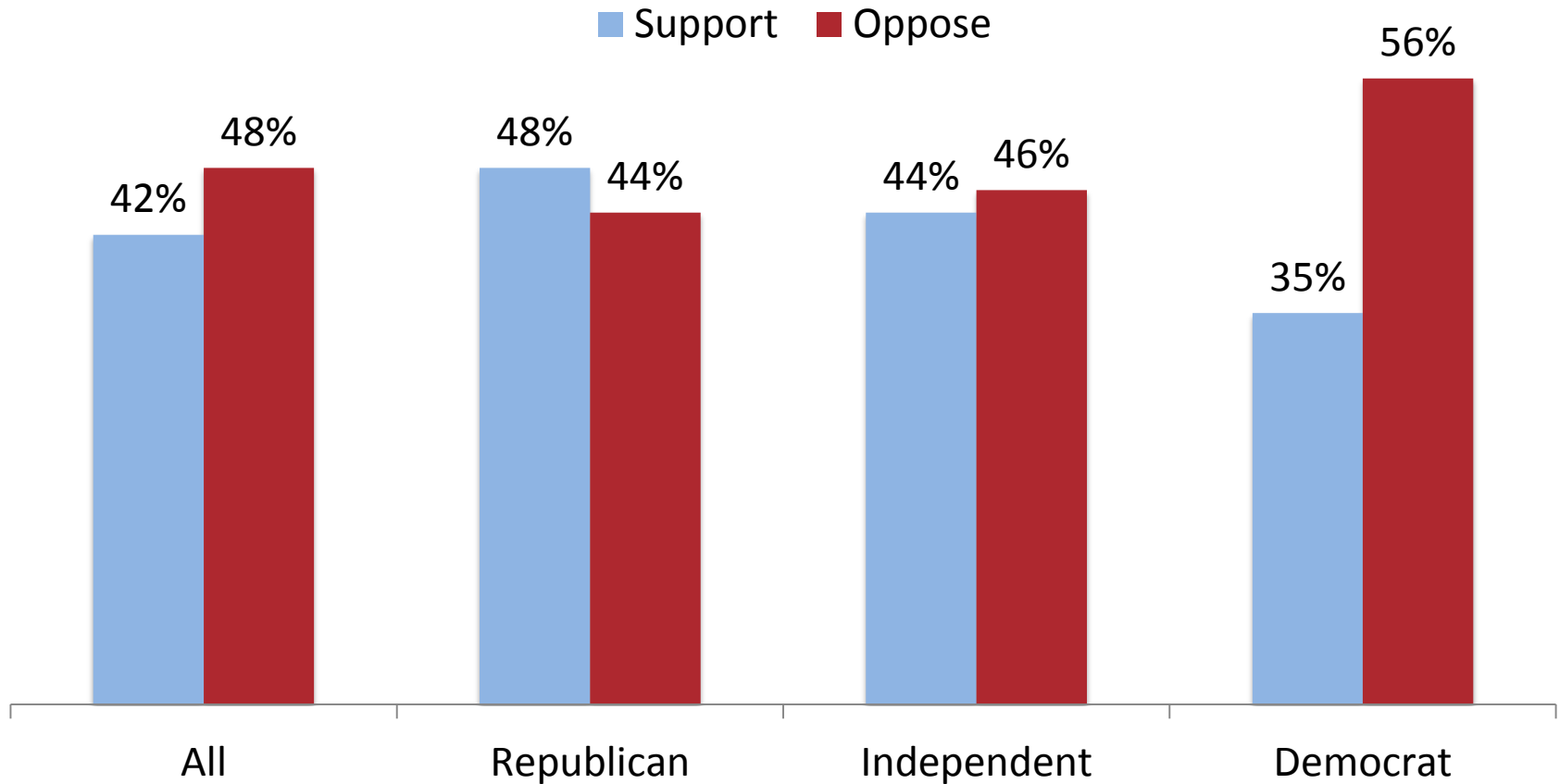
Eliminate the upper cap on premiums so that younger people can pay less and are not forced to subsidize health care for older and less healthy Americans



# Eliminating IPAB is the proposal with the least support, and the only one with more opponents than supporters.

*Now I would like to ask you about several proposals specifically to change the health care law passed in 2010. For each of the following, please tell me if you support or oppose that proposal:*

Eliminate the IPAB, an unelected board of 15 bureaucrats who can cut payments for medical procedures if they determine that Medicare is spending too much money





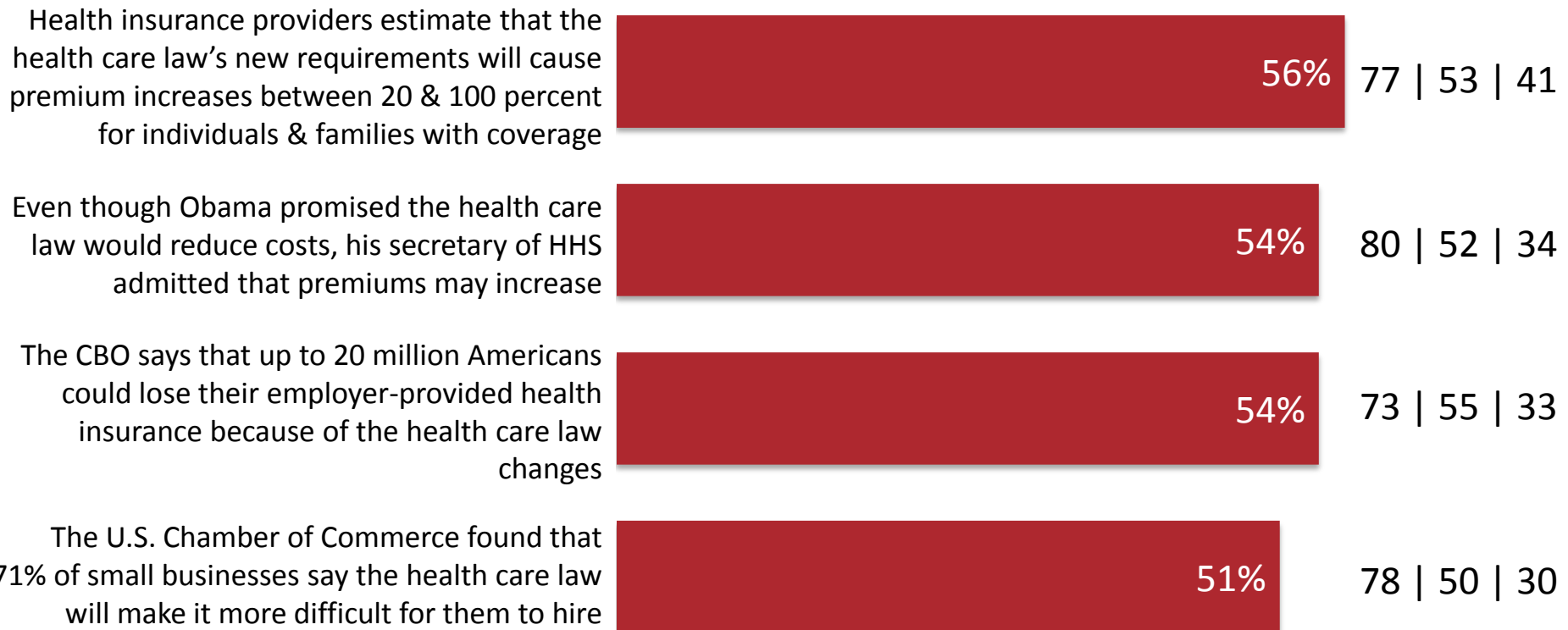
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# Top Criticisms of the Health Care Reform Law

# Top-tier criticisms focus on rising costs, losing employer coverage, and hurting job creation.

*Now I would like to read you a list of criticisms that people have made regarding the health care reform law passed in 2010. For each of the following, please tell me if that criticism concerns you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all:*

*Ranked By % "Great Deal"  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem*

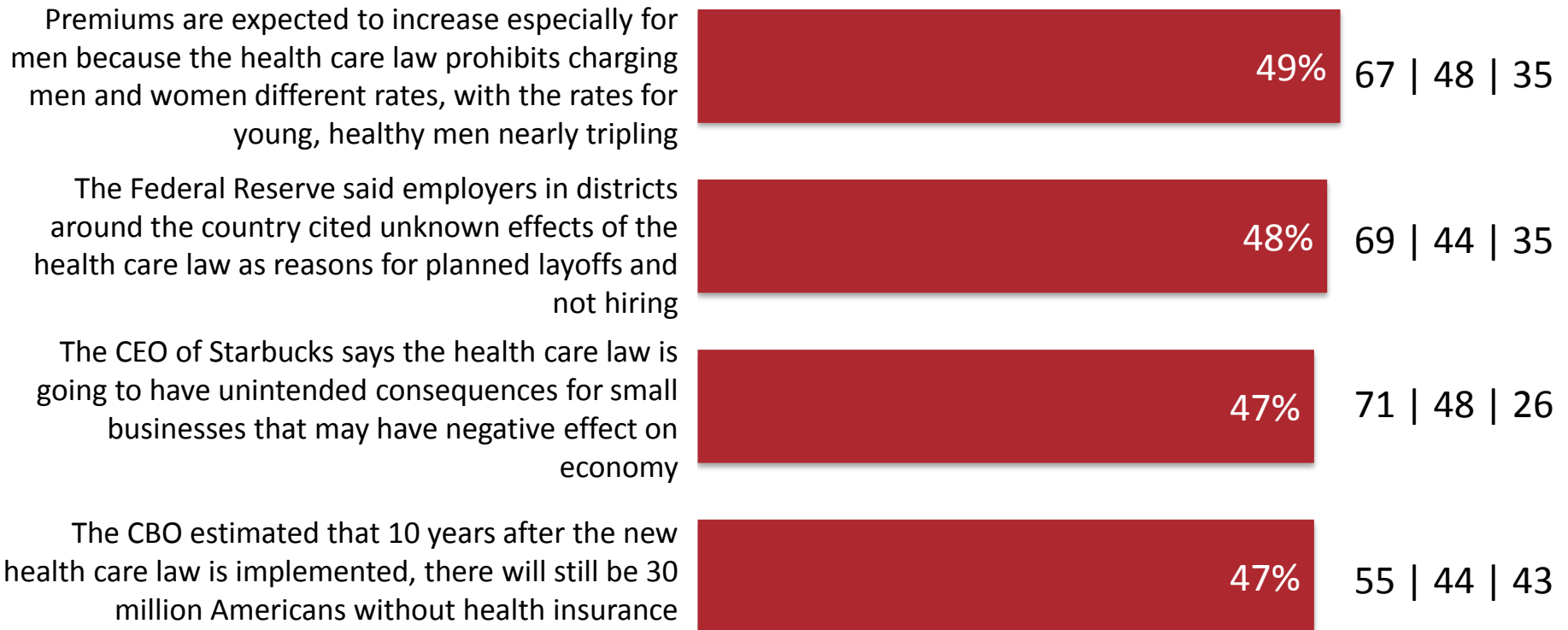




# Second-tier criticisms focus on higher premiums, hurting the economy, and still having people uninsured.

*Now I would like to read you a list of criticisms that people have made regarding the health care reform law passed in 2010. For each of the following, please tell me if that criticism concerns you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all:*

Ranked By % “Great Deal”  
% Rep | % Ind | % Dem



# Conclusions

- Overall attitudes about the health care reform law remain remarkably stable, with opponents outnumbering supporters by a single-digit margin.
- Because many positive aspects of the law have already been implemented, but negative aspects are yet to come, 2014 implementation will probably strengthen opponents more than supporters.
- After discussing specific aspects of the law, opponents want to dismantle the worst parts now rather than wait for full repeal. Say “dismantle the worst parts now,” not “fix the law.”

# Conclusions (continued)

- Threatening a government shutdown to repeal the law will backfire.
- Implementation of the law gives Obamacare opponents an opportunity to make real inroads into the Democratic leanings of young people.
- The IRS role in enforcing the law is a major problem for supporters right now.
- Top concerns about the law are rising health care costs, rising insurance premiums (especially for young and healthy people), and loss of employer-provided coverage.

# Conclusions (continued)

- Popular reforms focus on individual choice, not government mandates, such as:
  - Allow sale of less expensive catastrophic policies;
  - Expand HSAs;
  - Purchase health insurance across state lines;
  - Purchase health insurance with pre-tax dollars;
  - Allow seniors to use Medicare money to purchase private policies.

# Conclusions (continued)

- Proponents of change need to confront the supporters' contention that change will put insurance companies back in charge, cancelling policies and denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions.
- ObamaCare can be a good issue for conservatives, but only if they work it.