

To: Interested Parties
 From: Celinda Lake, David Mermin, Emily Garner, Lake Research Partners
 Robert Carpenter, Chesapeake Beach Consulting
 Re: New Bipartisan Polling Shows Support for Medical Debt Reform
 Date: October 8, 2024

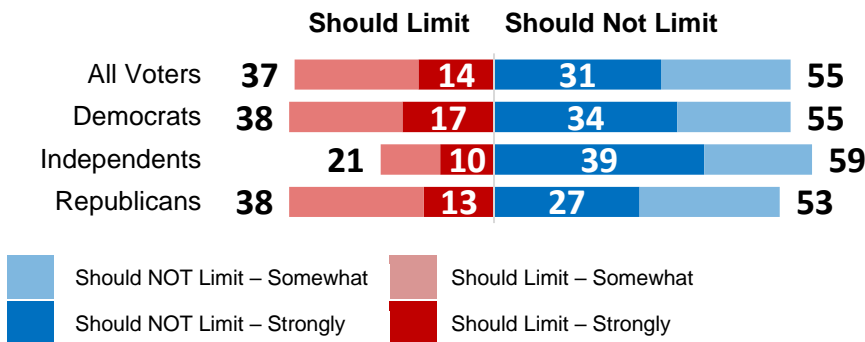
The newest poll from the bipartisan polling team Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consultingⁱ provides fresh evidence that the majority of Americans across the political spectrum support taking action to crack down on unfair reporting of medical debt. Taking action on medical debt is truly a bipartisan issue.

- Bipartisan majorities believe that medical debt should not limit someone’s ability to obtain a loan for a mortgage or car payment.
- They strongly support CFPB efforts ban medical debts on credit reports, both on medical and regular credit cards, and ban negative-only credit reporting.

Voters think having medical debt should not limit someone's ability to obtain a loan for a mortgage or car purchase.

- A majority of voters across party lines believe that medical debt should NOT limit someone’s ability to obtain a loan for a mortgage or car purchase.¹
 - Independents are the most likely to think medical debt should not be a limiting factor (by three-to-one) with high intensity – particularly notable as independents often have softer issue positions than partisans.

Medical Debt Limiting Loan/Mortgage/Car Purchase Ability



Lake Research Partners
 1101 17th Street NW,
 Suite 301
 Washington, DC 20036
 Tel: 202.776.9066
 Fax: 202.776.9074

Partners
 Celinda Lake
 Alysia Snell
 David Mermin
 Dr. Robert Meadow
 Daniel Gotoff
 Joshua Ulibarri
 Jonathan Voss

Voters strongly support the CFPB taking further action to reduce damage to consumers' credit related to medical debt.

- Eight in ten voters (80%) support the CFPB reports that contribute to reducing what medical debts appear on credit reports, while just 11% oppose the move.²
 - More than eight in ten (85%) of Democrats, 72% of independents, and 77% of Republicans support the CFPB’s actions on medical debt.

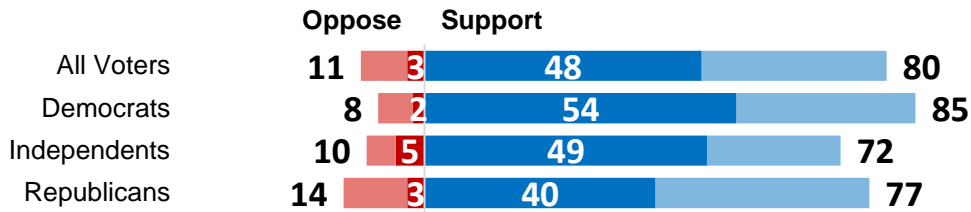
¹ Now thinking about medical debt: Do you think having medical debt should or should not limit someone's ability to obtain a loan for a mortgage or car purchase?

² Now here is some information about medical debt:

The CFPB recently issued several reports highlighting problems with debt collection and problems caused by credit reporting of medical debts. These CFPB reports have contributed to reducing what medical debts appear on credit reports.

Do you support or oppose this move, and the CFPB taking further action to reduce damage to consumers' credit related to medical debt?

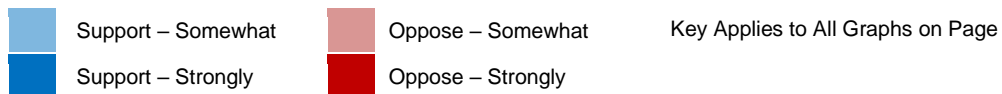
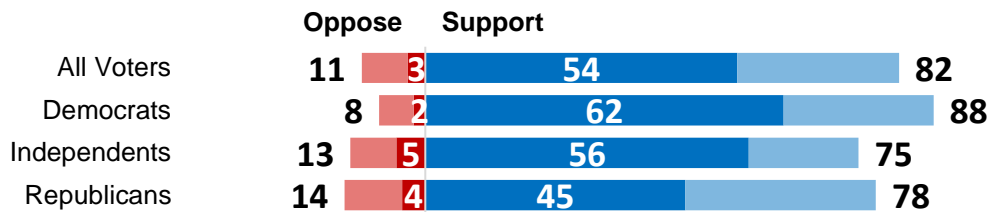
CFPB Taking Action on Medical Debt



Voters strongly support a variety of proposals to ban medical debts from being included on credit reports.

- After voters hear that medical debt is often reported inaccurately and does not reliably reflect whether someone pays other bills on time, eight in ten (82%) support the CFPB banning medical debts from appearing on credit reports, while just 11% oppose the move.³
 - At least three quarters of voters across the political spectrum support this proposal, including 88% of Democrats, 75% of independents, and 78% of Republicans.

CFPB Banning Medical Debts on Credit Reports



- Three quarters (76%) of voters also support an addition that would ban medical debts charged to medical credit cards from appearing on credit reports.⁴
 - Eight in ten Democrats (82%) and three quarters of Republicans (73%) support this proposal.
 - Support among independents is slightly softer (63%) because of larger numbers saying they are unsure rather than opposed – independents often hesitate to take a position on issues they perceive to be complex or technical.

³ Now here is some information about medical debt:

The CFPB recently issued a proposal to prohibit medical debts from appearing on credit reports. Research from the CFPB has found that medical debt is often reported inaccurately, reflecting mistakes made by billing departments and insurance companies, and that having medical debt does not reliably reflect whether someone pays other bills on time.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the CFPB’s proposal banning medical debts from being included on credit reports?

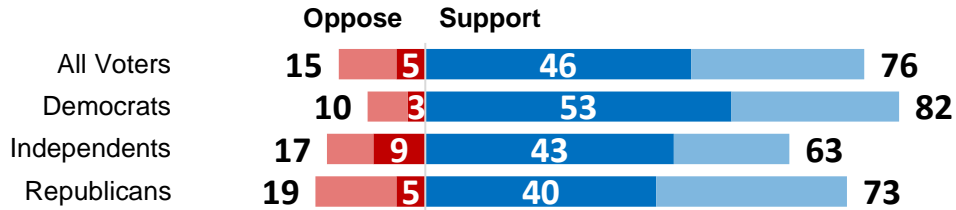
⁴ Now here is some more information about the new CFPB proposal prohibiting medical debts from appearing on credit reports:

This proposal would prohibit medical debt from being reported as a debt collection item on credit reports. Currently, it would not affect medical debt charged to credit cards

In some cases, medical debts are charged to credit cards specifically for medical costs, for example the CareCredit card. The CFPB is considering an addition that would also ban medical debts charged to medical credit cards from appearing on credit reports.

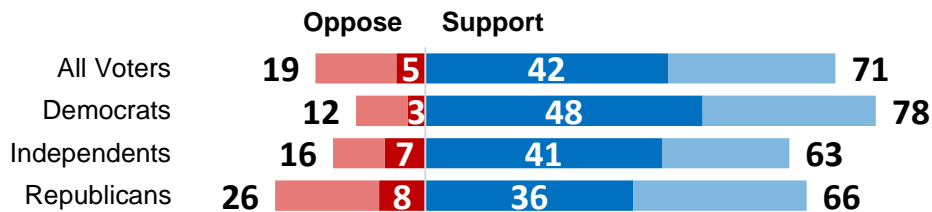
Do you support or oppose banning medical debts charged to medical credit cards from being included on credit reports?

CFPB Banning Medical Debt Charged to Medical Credit Cards on Credit Reports



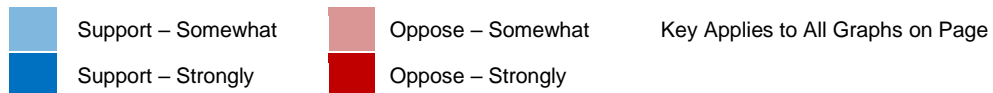
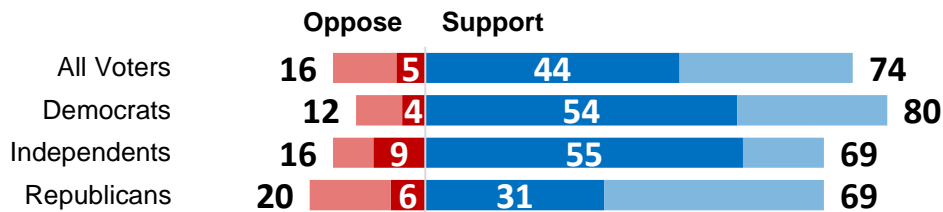
- Seven in ten voters (71%) also support an addition that would ban medical debts charged to *regular* credit cards from appearing on credit reports, while just 19% oppose the move.⁵
 - At least six in ten voters across party lines support this addition, on top of banning medical debts charged to medical cards, including over three quarters of Democrats (78%) and two thirds of Republicans (66%).

CFPB Banning Medical Debt Charged to Regular Credit Cards on Credit Reports



- After learning about the existence of negative-only credit reporting of medical debt, nearly three quarters of voters (74%) support banning it.⁶
 - Eight in ten Democrats (80%) and nearly seven in ten independents (69%), and Republicans (69%) support this proposal.

CFPB Banning Negative-Only Credit Reporting



⁵ In some cases, medical debts are charged to regular credit cards. The CFPB is considering an addition that would also ban medical debts charged to regular credit cards from appearing on credit reports.

Do you support or oppose banning medical debts charged to regular credit cards from being included on credit reports?

⁶ Now here is some more information about medical debt and credit reports:

Some lenders only report negative information on medical debt to credit reporting companies, not including positive information such as medical bills that have been paid off.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose the CFPB banning negative-only credit reporting?

Please feel free to contact Celinda Lake (clake@lakeresearch.com) or David Mermin (dmermin@lakeresearch.com) at 202-776-9066 or Bob Carpenter (bobcarpenter1957@gmail.com) for additional information about this research.

Methodology: Lake Research Partners and Chesapeake Beach Consulting designed and administered this survey, which was conducted online from July 17-25, 2024. The survey reached a total of 1,575 likely November 2024 voters nationwide.

The sample was stratified by gender, age, region, race, and education level to reflect the demographic composition of likely voters nationwide. Where there were slight differences between our survey sample and the expected voting population, data were weighted accordingly.

The margin of error is +/- 2.5% for the full sample and larger for subgroups and split-sampled questions.

Numbers do not always add up to 100% due to rounding and refusals.