

Health Care Act turning four-years old amidst partisan divide

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By [Bob Martin](#) , Publisher

The Pew Research Center reports that as the four-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act approaches, the law remains unpopular with the American people by a 12 percent margin, 53 percent to 41 percent, virtually unchanged from a year ago.

The new survey conducted during the past month among 3,335 adults finds that when opponents of the law are asked about its future, more want elected officials to try to make it work and not fail.

Thirty percent of the public overall, want politicians to do what they can to make it work compared to 19 percent who want elected officials to do what they can to cause it to fail.

The Pew Research Center shows that there continues to be a deep partisan difference out there – 72% of Democrats approve of the law compared to 37% of independents and just 8% of Republicans.

One of the things that stands out in the poll is those who approve of it beside Democrats and liberals. Those groups are those whose age is between 18 and 29 (50 to 47 percent); college grads (50-47 percent); conservative moderates, (66-27 percent).

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Hispanics are evenly divided, men disapprove (57-39 percent); women disapprove (50-44 percent); people under 30 are about even, but among the old geezers, those who probably will benefit the most from the law, majorities disapprove.

College grads, as noted above, approve by a narrow margin but those with only some college experience only 40 percent approve; 54 percent disapprove. Among those with no college 36 percent approve, 57 disapprove.

Those with family incomes of under \$30,000 annually are as likely to approve, 45%, percent as disapprove, 47%. By contrast, majorities of those in higher income households disapprove of the law.

Frankly, these numbers baffle this Medicare recipient. In fact Nancy and I just received our new Medicare Handbook for 2014. Thanks to that program millions of Americans have been able to take advantage of; expanded preventive services, cancer screenings, and Wellness Programs at no cost; saved money in the prescription drug coverage gap (donut hole) with huge discounts on covered brand-name drugs; and made informed decisions by using the Medicare web site.

The new Health Insurance Marketplace will allow millions of people, including our children and grandchildren to have access to healthcare at a reasonable cost that has never been available before. So if our governments, state, federal and local, can provide low cost health insurance to millions of public workers and retirees, why are we trying to reject the offer by Mr. Obama to the rest of us and our children.

It makes no sense to me.

Biscuits wake up

Talking about making no sense, how could the Alabama House of Representatives, without dissent last week, vote to make Cornbread the "Official State Bread," choosing it over Biscuits.

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That's right folks not a single House member stood up and fought for Biscuits, so legislation was passed designating cornbread as the official state bread. Only the Senate can stand up and give Biscuits their due. After all, they represent Montgomery on Baseball Diamonds throughout the South. It was an amazing vote. According to the official vote total every House member voted for the legislation, a virtually impossible task in the Alabama Legislature...ever to get 105 votes...so there must have been some skullduggery somewhere.

I have been assured by one State Senator that he will stand up for Biscuits when that legislation reaches the Senate floor.

But in the house the nonsense culminated with these words:

"Whereas, real cornbread, that which is made and served in the correct manner to preserve its unique heritage is truly deserving of recognition as a delicacy in Alabama; now therefore, be it resolved by the Legislature of Alabama, Both Houses thereof concurring, that we hereby designate cornbread as the official state bread of Alabama and hereby extend blessings to every home in Alabama that recognizes, appreciates, and enjoys this incredible and historical Alabama staple."

Yep, folks this foolishness goes on and it has since I started covering the Capitol Scene in about 1967. But, I'm sure it does elsewhere too, and a little light heartedness doesn't harm anything.

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