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NATIONAL: HEALTH CARE IS TOP CONCERN OF AMERICAN FAMILIES

3-in-10 struggling to maintain current financial situation

West Long Branch, NJ – Paying for health care has emerged as the top concern of American families, according to the latest national *Monmouth University Poll*. Two years ago this concern was clustered with job security and other household bills as causing the most anxiety for American households. Half the country feels that their current financial situation is stable, but the remainder are more likely to feel that they are struggling to keep their finances afloat than say their situation is improving. These concerns cut across party lines, but Americans' views of whether government action helps or hurts their situation is colored by partisanship.

Currently, 1-in-4 Americans (25%) report that the cost of health care is the biggest concern facing their family right now. Two years ago, 15% reported this as their family's primary concern. Anxiety about meeting health care costs now outpaces job and unemployment worries (14%) as well as concerns about paying everyday household bills (12%). Health care is the top concern of American families regardless of income level or partisan identity. A variety of other concerns register in the single digits, such as school costs (4%) and taxes (4%).

“The top three concerns were clustered together just two years ago. Now, health care has jumped to the top of the list as Americans grapple with balancing their household budgets,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey. “It’s also worth noting that issues that have been dominating the news, such as immigration and national security, rank very low on the list of items that keep Americans up at night.”

Half of Americans (51%) say their personal financial situation is stable, while 29% say they are struggling to remain where they are and 20% say their financial circumstances are improving. Most Americans describe their current financial situation as being either middle class (40%) or working class (30%). Another 16% say they are upper middle class or better off and 13% describe themselves as poor.

Among self-described middle class Americans, 59% say their situation is stable, 23% improving, and 18% struggling. Among the working class, 52% are stable, 34% struggling, and 14% improving. Among the well-off, 56% are stable, 36% improving, and 8% struggling. Among those who describe themselves as poor, though, 75% say they are struggling to stay where they are, 18% feel they are stable and just 7% feel their situation is improving.

“It’s important to note that there are no significant partisan differences in how Americans see their own financial situation. However, they do view the government’s impact on their personal circumstances through a partisan lens,” said Murray.

Just 27% of Americans say that the federal government has helped with their family’s top concern while 37% say government actions over the past few years have actually hurt their ability to deal with this concern. Another 34% say that the federal government has had no real impact either way on their family’s top concern. Opinion of Washington’s impact has improved slightly from two years ago, when just 14% of Americans said the federal government’s actions helped with their family’s top concern and nearly half (47%) said Washington made things worse.

Opinion is currently divided along partisan lines – just 9% of Republicans say the federal government has helped with their family’s top concern while 61% say Washington’s actions have been harmful. The opposite is true for Democrats – 48% helped and 16% hurt. Among independents, 22% say Washington has helped and 38% say it has hurt.

Americans are a little more optimistic about the federal government’s impact in the near future, although this opinion is still characterized by a partisan divide. Overall, 42% expect that Washington will help them deal with their family’s top concern over the next few years, 33% say Washington’s actions will hurt them, and 21% expect Washington will have no impact either way. Republicans (74% help and 5% hurt) are decidedly more positive than Democrats (15% help and 61% hurt) about how the federal government will affect their family’s top concern in coming years. Independents are mixed at 42% help and 30% hurt.

This partisan divide is evident even when the public is asked about ostensibly non-partisan impacts on their personal finances. For example, just under half of Americans say their family has benefitted either a great deal (12%) or some (35%) from recent growth in the American economy, including lower unemployment and a record Dow Jones average. The current 47% positive outlook is somewhat higher than it was either last year (43%) or two years ago (39%). However, Democrats (63%) are more likely than either independents (42%) or Republicans (37%) to say they have benefitted from the country’s economic upturn even though there are no significant partisan differences in whether people report they are struggling, stable, or getting ahead.

“The hyper-partisan atmosphere of politics penetrates every aspect of American life. This poses a challenge for measuring public opinion on issues that should transcend politics,” said Murray.

One area where different partisans do agree is whether the legislative branch of the federal government is looking out for average Americans. Barely 4-in-10 say that members of Congress give a great deal (7%) or some (32%) weight to the concerns of average Americans when deciding which policies to pursue, while the majority say Congress gives not much (39%) or no weight at all (19%) to what average Americans need when making policy decisions. Republicans (45%) are only slightly more likely than Democrats (39%) and independents (36%) to say that Congress gives at least some weight to the concerns of average Americans when deciding which policies to support.

“These results serve as a reminder that Republicans maintained control of Congress more because of Donald Trump’s coattails than due to any broad based endorsement of their ideological orthodoxy. Still, those who lead Congress have yet to pay a price for the public’s overwhelmingly negative opinion of the entire legislative branch and there appears to be little expectation that these leaders will change their ways,” said Murray.

More specifically, 77% of Americans say that members of Congress give more weight to partisan ideological concerns compared with just 13% who say that they give more weight to the concerns of average citizens. There is widespread agreement that members of Congress put ideology first – 80% of Republicans, 78% of independents, and 75% of Democrats.

“It is not clear whether Americans realistically expect the new administration to have a positive impact on their lives,” said Murray. “It’s worth noting that health care is more likely to be a top concern in the Midwest, at 31%, than it is elsewhere in the country. Considering that this region provided Trump his margin of victory, reaction to future health care reforms will be something to keep an eye on in terms of overall public support for the president.”

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from January 12 to 15, 2017 with 801 adults in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/-3.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-18 previously released]

19. Turning to issues closer to home, what is the biggest concern facing your family right now?

[LIST WAS NOT READ]

TREND:	January 2017	January 2015
Health care costs	25%	15%
Job security, unemployment	14%	16%
Everyday bills, groceries, etc.	12%	16%
College tuition, school costs	4%	10%
Taxes	4%	7%
Housing, mortgage, rent	3%	4%
Social Security, seniors	3%	2%
Family illness, health	3%	4%
The economy	3%	2%
Safety, crime	3%	2%
Immigration	3%	1%
Civil rights	3%	n/a
Retirement saving	2%	3%
Terrorism, national security	2%	1%
Quality of government	1%	2%
Education policy	1%	2%
Trump as president	1%	n/a
Climate change, environment	1%	n/a
Other	2%	4%
Don't know/No answer	10%	8%
(n)	(801)	(1,003)

[Questions 20 & 21 were asked of only those who mentioned a concern in Q19: n=728, moe=+/-3.6%]

20. Thinking about this most important concern, have the actions of the federal government in the past few years helped, hurt, or had no real impact on this concern?

TREND:	January 2017	January 2015
Helped	27%	14%
Hurt	37%	47%
No real impact	34%	38%
(VOL) Don't know	2%	2%
(n)	(728)	(926)

21. And do you think the actions of the federal government over the next few years will help, hurt, or have no real impact on this concern?

TREND:	January 2017
Help	42%
Hurt	33%
No real impact	21%
(VOL) Don't know	4%
(n)	(728)

[ASKED OF EVERYONE]

22. Recent indicators have shown that the U.S. economy has been growing, including lower unemployment, higher productivity, and a record high Dow Jones average. How much has your family benefitted from this economic upturn – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?

TREND:	January 2017	August 2016*	January 2015
Great deal	12%	11%	8%
Some	35%	32%	31%
Not much	29%	26%	32%
Not at all	23%	28%	29%
(VOL) Don't know	2%	3%	0%
(n)	(801)	(803)	(1,003)

*Registered voters

23. Would you describe your current financial situation as poor, working class, middle class, upper middle class, or better off than that?

	January 2017
Poor	13%
Working class	30%
Middle class	40%
Upper middle class	14%
Better off than that	2%
(VOL) Other	1%
(VOL) Don't know	1%
(n)	(801)

24. Would you say you are struggling to remain where you are financially, basically stable in your current financial situation, or is your financial situation improving?

	January 2017
Struggling	29%
Stable	51%
Improving	20%
(VOL) Don't know	0%
(n)	(801)

25. How much weight do members of Congress give to the concerns of average Americans when they decide which policies to support – a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?

	January 2017
Great deal	7%
Some	32%
Not much	39%
None at all	19%
(VOL) Depends	1%
(VOL) Don't know	2%
(n)	(801)

26. Do members of Congress tend to give more weight to the concerns of average Americans or more weight to partisan ideological concerns? [CHOICES WERE ROTATED]

	January 2017
More weight to the concerns of average Americans	13%
More weight to partisan ideological concerns	77%
(VOL) Depends	2%
(VOL) Don't know	8%
(n)	(801)

[Q27-35 held for future release]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from January 12 to 15, 2017 with a national random sample of 801 adults age 18 and older. This includes 400 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 401 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
30% Republican	
37% Independent	
33% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
31% 18-34	
37% 35-54	
32% 55+	
67% White	
12% Black	
14% Hispanic	
7% Asian/Other	

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
TOTAL		801	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	708	3.7%
	No	93	10.2%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	225	6.5%
PARTY ID	Independent	301	5.7%
	Democrat	256	6.1%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	189	7.1%
	Moderate	337	5.3%
	Conservative	255	6.1%
GENDER	Male	408	4.9%
	Female	393	5.0%
AGE	18-34	274	5.9%
	35-54	204	6.9%
	55+	320	5.5%
RACE	White non-Hispanic	592	4.0%
	Other	189	7.1%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	421	4.8%
	4 year degree	374	5.1%
INCOME	<\$50K	295	5.7%
	\$50 to <100K	257	6.1%
	\$100K+	200	6.9%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19/B1. Turning to issues closer to home, what is the biggest concern facing your family right now? [DO NOT READ LIST - SINGLE ANSWER]	Job security, unemployment	14%	14%	19%	14%	16%	14%	15%	15%	15%
	Health care costs	25%	25%	21%	23%	24%	26%	28%	26%	21%
	Everyday bills, groceries, etc.	12%	11%	15%	12%	10%	14%	12%	13%	11%
	College tuition, school costs	4%	5%	1%	2%	6%	6%	4%	7%	2%
	Housing costs, mortgage/rent	3%	2%	6%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%
	Saving for retirement	2%	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%	2%	2%	1%
	Social Security	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%	2%	4%
	Taxes	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	2%	4%	3%	6%
	Family illness, health	3%	3%	1%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
	Safety, crime	3%	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
	Terrorism, national security	2%	2%	3%	4%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%
	Immigration	3%	2%	6%	2%	5%	1%	0%	2%	5%
	The economy	3%	3%	0%	3%	4%	2%	4%	1%	3%
	Trump as president	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	1%
	Education policy	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%
	Climate change, environment	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%	1%
	Quality of government	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Civil rights	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	5%	2%	2%
	Other	2%	2%	1%	4%	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%
	None_Dont know	10%	10%	12%	12%	8%	10%	7%	10%	12%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
19/B1. Turning to issues closer to home, what is the biggest concern facing your family right now? [DO NOT READ LIST - SINGLE ANSWER]	Job security, unemployment	16%	13%	13%	19%	11%	13%	19%	15%
	Health care costs	20%	29%	21%	25%	27%	28%	18%	23%
	Everyday bills, groceries, etc.	13%	11%	14%	10%	11%	10%	13%	14%
	College tuition, school costs	5%	3%	7%	4%	2%	4%	5%	4%
	Housing costs, mortgage/rent	2%	4%	5%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%
	Saving for retirement	3%	1%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%
	Social Security	2%	5%	1%	3%	6%	4%	1%	3%
	Taxes	6%	3%	7%	5%	1%	4%	5%	3%
	Family illness, health	1%	4%	1%	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%
	Safety, crime	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%	3%
	Terrorism, national security	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%
	Immigration	4%	1%	5%	1%	2%	1%	6%	4%
	The economy	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
	Trump as president	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
	Education policy	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
	Climate change, environment	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
	Quality of government	2%	1%	0%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%
	Civil rights	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%
Other	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	0%	1%	
None_Dont know	9%	11%	12%	6%	13%	10%	11%	12%	

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
19/B1. Turning to issues closer to home, what is the biggest concern facing your family right now? [DO NOT READ LIST - SINGLE ANSWER]	Job security, unemployment	13%	16%	15%	11%
	Health care costs	29%	25%	27%	20%
	Everyday bills, groceries, etc.	7%	17%	10%	5%
	College tuition, school costs	5%	4%	4%	6%
	Housing costs, mortgage/rent	2%	5%	2%	0%
	Saving for retirement	3%	1%	1%	6%
	Social Security	3%	4%	3%	3%
	Taxes	6%	1%	5%	11%
	Family illness, health	4%	4%	2%	3%
	Safety, crime	2%	2%	3%	4%
	Terrorism, national security	3%	2%	3%	2%
	Immigration	1%	3%	3%	2%
	The economy	5%	3%	2%	4%
	Trump as president	1%	1%	2%	1%
	Education policy	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Climate change, environment	2%	1%	1%	2%
	Quality of government	2%	1%	1%	2%
Civil rights	5%	1%	5%	3%	
Other	3%	1%	0%	5%	
None_Dont know	4%	8%	10%	12%	

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20/B2. Thinking about this most important concern, have the actions of the federal government in the past few years helped, hurt, or had no real impact on this concern?	Helped	27%	26%	34%	9%	22%	48%	51%	25%	14%
	Hurt	37%	39%	29%	61%	38%	16%	16%	33%	56%
	No real impact	34%	34%	34%	28%	38%	34%	33%	38%	30%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	0%	4%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
20/B2. Thinking about this most important concern, have the actions of the federal government in the past few years helped, hurt, or had no real impact on this concern?	Helped	23%	30%	32%	23%	27%	21%	38%	25%
	Hurt	36%	39%	31%	42%	38%	48%	14%	37%
	No real impact	39%	30%	34%	34%	34%	29%	45%	35%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
20/B2. Thinking about this most important concern, have the actions of the federal government in the past few years helped, hurt, or had no real impact on this concern?	Helped	31%	31%	21%	27%
	Hurt	37%	28%	44%	46%
	No real impact	31%	39%	34%	25%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	2%	1%	2%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
21/B3. And do you think the actions of the federal government over the next few years will help, hurt, or have no real impact on this concern?	Help	42%	43%	37%	74%	42%	15%	15%	35%	66%
	Hurt	33%	33%	37%	5%	30%	61%	67%	36%	11%
	No real impact	21%	21%	19%	17%	25%	22%	17%	25%	18%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	4%	3%	7%	4%	3%	3%	1%	4%	5%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
21/B3. And do you think the actions of the federal government over the next few years will help, hurt, or have no real impact on this concern?	Help	42%	42%	36%	47%	41%	50%	28%	46%
	Hurt	27%	40%	36%	29%	36%	29%	42%	29%
	No real impact	28%	14%	22%	23%	18%	18%	26%	20%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	3%	4%	6%	1%	5%	3%	5%	4%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
21/B3. And do you think the actions of the federal government over the next few years will help, hurt, or have no real impact on this concern?	Help	33%	40%	45%	38%
	Hurt	43%	34%	30%	40%
	No real impact	22%	23%	21%	20%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	3%	3%	2%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
22/B4. Recent indicators have shown that the U.S. economy has been growing, including lower unemployment, higher productivity, and a record high Dow Jones average. How much has your family benefitted from this economic upturn - a great deal, some, not muc	Great deal	12%	11%	15%	7%	11%	19%	15%	12%	11%
	Some	35%	36%	29%	30%	31%	44%	45%	39%	24%
	Not much	29%	28%	30%	31%	32%	23%	25%	29%	32%
	Not at all	23%	23%	25%	31%	23%	14%	15%	19%	31%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	0%	1%	1%	2%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
22/B4. Recent indicators have shown that the U.S. economy has been growing, including lower unemployment, higher productivity, and a record high Dow Jones average. How much has your family benefitted from this economic upturn - a great deal, some, not muc	Great deal	13%	11%	14%	11%	10%	9%	19%	11%
	Some	32%	37%	35%	34%	35%	33%	37%	31%
	Not much	28%	29%	27%	30%	29%	30%	25%	31%
	Not at all	25%	22%	22%	25%	23%	27%	16%	24%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
22/B4. Recent indicators have shown that the U.S. economy has been growing, including lower unemployment, higher productivity, and a record high Dow Jones average. How much has your family benefitted from this economic upturn - a great deal, some, not muc	Great deal	14%	9%	9%	24%
	Some	43%	27%	40%	41%
	Not much	22%	32%	28%	21%
	Not at all	20%	30%	20%	14%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	2%	2%	0%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
23/B5. Would you describe your current financial situation as poor, working class, middle class, upper middle class, or better off than that?	Poor	13%	12%	15%	13%	15%	9%	9%	11%	16%
	Working class	30%	29%	34%	28%	32%	28%	27%	32%	29%
	Middle class	40%	41%	34%	41%	36%	44%	47%	38%	39%
	Upper middle class	14%	15%	7%	13%	12%	16%	16%	15%	11%
	Better off than that	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%
	[VOL] Other, specify:	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	1%	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
23/B5. Would you describe your current financial situation as poor, working class, middle class, upper middle class, or better off than that?	Poor	11%	14%	6%	12%	19%	13%	13%	16%
	Working class	29%	30%	41%	30%	18%	28%	33%	34%
	Middle class	42%	38%	40%	39%	41%	39%	40%	37%
	Upper middle class	14%	13%	9%	16%	16%	16%	9%	8%
	Better off than that	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	4%	2%
	[VOL] Other, specify:	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
23/B5. Would you describe your current financial situation as poor, working class, middle class, upper middle class, or better off than that?	Poor	5%	27%	1%	4%
	Working class	17%	41%	26%	11%
	Middle class	47%	29%	58%	38%
	Upper middle class	28%	1%	14%	39%
	Better off than that	3%	1%	0%	8%
	[VOL] Other, specify:	0%	1%	1%	0%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	0%	1%	0%	0%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 2/07/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
24/B6. Would you say you are struggling to remain where you are financially, basically stable in your current financial situation, or is your financial situation improving?	Struggling	29%	28%	33%	28%	28%	31%	24%	29%	31%
	Stable	51%	53%	39%	51%	49%	52%	58%	49%	48%
	Improving	20%	19%	28%	20%	23%	17%	18%	21%	21%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
24/B6. Would you say you are struggling to remain where you are financially, basically stable in your current financial situation, or is your financial situation improving?	Struggling	28%	29%	21%	30%	34%	28%	30%	32%
	Stable	50%	52%	50%	50%	53%	54%	45%	48%
	Improving	22%	18%	29%	20%	12%	17%	26%	20%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
24/B6. Would you say you are struggling to remain where you are financially, basically stable in your current financial situation, or is your financial situation improving?	Struggling	20%	46%	17%	13%
	Stable	58%	41%	61%	53%
	Improving	22%	13%	23%	33%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
25/B7. How much weight do members of Congress give to the concerns of average Americans when they decide which policies to support - a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?	Great deal	7%	7%	8%	9%	6%	6%	5%	6%	10%
	Some	32%	33%	28%	36%	30%	33%	28%	34%	32%
	Not much	39%	38%	41%	33%	42%	41%	43%	38%	38%
	None at all	19%	18%	23%	18%	21%	17%	20%	19%	17%
	[VOL] Depends	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	3%	3%	1%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%

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		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
25/B7. How much weight do members of Congress give to the concerns of average Americans when they decide which policies to support - a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?	Great deal	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	5%	9%	8%
	Some	28%	36%	36%	35%	26%	31%	36%	33%
	Not much	39%	38%	38%	32%	46%	41%	35%	39%
	None at all	22%	16%	16%	23%	17%	19%	17%	17%
	[VOL] Depends	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
25/B7. How much weight do members of Congress give to the concerns of average Americans when they decide which policies to support - a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?	Great deal	5%	6%	7%	11%
	Some	32%	30%	34%	33%
	Not much	37%	39%	39%	38%
	None at all	24%	21%	16%	18%
	[VOL] Depends	1%	2%	1%	1%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	2%	2%	3%	1%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
26/B8. Do members of Congress tend to give more weight to the concerns of average Americans or more weight to partisan ideological concerns?	More weight to the concerns of average Americans	13%	13%	13%	12%	14%	15%	12%	11%	17%
	More weight to partisan ideological concerns	77%	78%	74%	80%	78%	75%	85%	79%	72%
	[VOL] Depends	2%	2%	0%	2%	0%	3%	2%	2%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	8%	7%	13%	6%	8%	7%	2%	8%	9%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
26/B8. Do members of Congress tend to give more weight to the concerns of average Americans or more weight to partisan ideological concerns?	More weight to the concerns of average Americans	14%	13%	15%	11%	14%	9%	22%	16%
	More weight to partisan ideological concerns	76%	78%	74%	83%	74%	83%	67%	72%
	[VOL] Depends	1%	2%	2%	0%	3%	1%	2%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	8%	8%	9%	6%	8%	7%	9%	9%

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		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+
26/B8. Do members of Congress tend to give more weight to the concerns of average Americans or more weight to partisan ideological concerns?	More weight to the concerns of average Americans	6%	22%	7%	6%
	More weight to partisan ideological concerns	89%	65%	86%	91%
	[VOL] Depends	1%	1%	2%	2%
	[VOL] Dont know_Refused	4%	11%	5%	1%