

COMMITMENT to SENIORS

June 1, 2023

Dear **NAME**,

As part of our [Commitment to Seniors](#) initiative, [American Commitment](#) today released a major [new national survey](#) conducted among **1,600 likely voters** who are **55 and older**, including nearly 700 identifying AARP members. This survey, conducted by McLaughlin & Associates from April 23-30, 2023, indicated various concerns voters 55 and older had on healthcare affordability issues, the impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and AARP's advocacy initiatives surrounding it in view of its corporate financial relationships.

We wanted to share these survey results with you so that you may carefully consider the priorities and concerns of your older constituents, which are not reflected in advocacy messages you receive from AARP.

Key findings on health affordability concerns and impacts of the IRA include:

- **Roughly 60%** of seniors 55+ and AARP members view *health insurance-related costs* as the most concerning healthcare affordability issues – above costs for prescription drugs and long-term care.
- **Nearly 85%** believe Congress should not *divert any* of the IRA's Medicare drug savings meant to lower drug costs for seniors to pay for unrelated spending. (Ex: *EV tax credits, new ACA subsidies*)
- **Above 90%** believe the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) Medicare drug savings should be passed on *directly to individual seniors* in Medicare.
- **Over 80%** are concerned the IRA will lead to a loss in new cutting-edge medicines and cures to treat chronic and rare diseases.
- **Just 14%** believe the IRA's Medicare changes will decrease seniors' drug costs, while over half believe the changes will likely end up *increasing drug costs*.

Key findings on AARP's advocacy activities and financial relationships:

- **Roughly 85%** are concerned that *over half* of AARP's operating revenue (\$1 billion) comes from royalties, the majority of which is from a single corporation, UnitedHealthcare.
- **Nearly 90%** believe AARP *should not have supported the IRA* after discovering it diverted some Medicare drug savings to pay for unrelated spending and tax breaks.
- **Close to 90%** are concerned about AARP earning *billions in royalties* over several years from UnitedHealthcare while lobbying on similar issues like Medicare.
- **Almost 80%** are concerned about AARP's status as a non-partisan entity in view of its events and petition drives on the IRA and drug pricing debates *almost exclusively* being focused on Democrats.
- **Some 74% of 55+ seniors and 63% of AARP members** consider the nearly 5% royalty AARP receives from AARP-UnitedHealthcare policies a *"junk fee"* similar to what many in Congress want to ban.

The disconnect between the priorities of AARP and seniors shows that AARP advocates on behalf of its corporate partners and its own bottom line. AARP has abused its reputation to advance public policies seniors clearly do not support.

Poll results can be found on the website of our Commitment to Seniors project:

- [Full Poll Toplines](#)
- [Full Poll Presentation](#)

- [AARP Members Only Poll Toplines](#)
- [AARP Members Only Poll Presentation](#)

For a comprehensive analysis of the financial relationship between AARP and UnitedHealthcare, please see this report by Juniper Research: [“How AARP Puts Profits over Patients—And Principles”](#).

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment