

COMMITMENT[✓]to SENIORS

June 26, 2024

The Honorable XX
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator XX:

I am writing to you today to bring your attention to a new American Commitment [poll](#) that illuminates voters' health care cost concerns and priorities. The poll, conducted by KAConsulting LLC, surveyed 1,000 registered voters nationwide, focusing on seniors and health care issues. Overall, health care *affordability* is the primary concern for America's older population, and despite what proponents say, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is not a solution most voters support or benefit from. Key findings include:

- Health care remains a top concern for voters, with 40% ranking it a top-three issue. The top specific concerns include monthly premiums (16%), deductibles (10%), surprise medical bills (10%), prescription costs (7%), and hospital services (6%).
- The IRA faces significant skepticism from the American public regarding its efficacy in reducing health care costs and inflation. A majority of Americans believe the IRA has increased costs for groceries (80%), gas and home energy (70%), health insurance (60%), and prescription drugs (48%).
- Just 12% say the Inflation Reduction Act benefited consumers, patients, and families, and only 4% say it benefited seniors; far more believe it instead helped politicians and big insurers.
- High levels of agreement exist for solutions like passing drug price discounts directly to patients (86%), using market-based strategies for older medicines (83%), and increasing congressional oversight on health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (78%).
- Over 80% agree with a market-based approach to lower the cost of medicines that have been on the market for more than 13 years without competition.

[Commitment to Seniors](#), an [American Commitment](#) initiative, was established to shed light on AARP's public policy positions, actions, and inactions, as well as its advocacy and political engagements and how they impact its members and financial partners. As one of the main proponents of the insurer-friendly IRA that spent over \$60 million to help pass President Biden's failed spending bill, AARP has proven it can not be viewed as a trusted advocate for seniors. AARP receives [billions in corporate royalties via insurer-PBM UnitedHealth Group](#) – far exceeding even what its members pay in dues – and continually fails to visibly advocate for insurer-PBM accountability reforms while helping to pass policies like the IRA that benefit its corporate partners financially.

These findings highlight the critical need for free-market health care reforms and the need to rein in big insurer-PBM health cartels. Congress must increase oversight of the IRA's failings and address health care affordability concerns for seniors. Voters want decisive action on health care costs and most agree that market-based solutions to lower drug prices and simplify health costs are the answer.

Sincerely,

Phil Kerpen
President, American Commitment