



D I S C U S S I N G

Welfare Program Integrity



Medicaid and the food stamp program were designed to serve the most vulnerable. But waste, fraud, and abuse within the welfare system cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year and rob the truly needy of limited resources. In 2018 alone, improper Medicaid spending reached \$62 billion. Even though they have the data to crack down on this fraud and abuse, states often don't require enrollees to report changes and don't crosscheck data, allowing even lottery winners to collect benefits. By enacting measures to protect welfare integrity and lock fraudsters out of the system, states can help protect the truly needy, ensuring resources are available for those who need them the most.

Voters support implementing welfare program integrity to protect the system for the truly needy.

What messages really move them? These messages work best.

- ▶ States **already have the data** needed to conduct welfare eligibility audits. Agencies simply need to communicate with each other to share this data.
- ▶ Welfare program integrity reform could **help preserve resources for the truly needy**.
- ▶ Other welfare programs **already require enrollees to report changes** that could impact their eligibility.
- ▶ Temporary lockouts for fraudsters would **only affect able-bodied adults who were found to be abusing the system**, not the truly needy.
- ▶ States **already check lottery winners for child support**, but not for welfare eligibility.
- ▶ Other types of lockouts in the Medicaid program have shown that **people do not usually return to the program**, even after the lockout period is over.

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MESSAGE TESTING

	ALL VOTERS	GOP	DEM	IND
Would you be more or less likely to support welfare eligibility audits if you knew that states already have this data, and agencies just need to communicate and share this information with one another?				
More likely	69%	77%	60%	69%
Less likely	20%	12%	28%	20%
Unsure	11%	11%	12%	11%

Would you be more or less likely to support welfare integrity reform if you knew that it could preserve resources for the truly needy?				
More likely	66%	73%	60%	64%
Less likely	19%	13%	27%	17%
Unsure	15%	14%	13%	19%

Would you be more or less likely to support requiring people on welfare to report changes if you knew that other welfare programs require enrollees to report changes that could impact eligibility?				
More likely	66%	70%	62%	66%
Less likely	21%	16%	27%	20%
Unsure	13%	13%	11%	14%

Would you be more or less likely to support temporary lockouts if you knew that only able-bodied adults would be locked out of the program?				
More likely	65%	70%	61%	64%
Less likely	22%	18%	24%	22%
Unsure	14%	12%	15%	14%

Would you be more or less likely to support welfare eligibility audits if you knew that one state found that 3,500 lottery winners were receiving welfare benefits or living with welfare recipients?				
More likely	64%	71%	58%	65%
Less likely	23%	19%	28%	23%
Unsure	12%	11%	14%	12%

Would you be more or less likely to support welfare eligibility audits if you knew that states check lottery winners for child support but not for welfare eligibility?				
More likely	64%	70%	59%	61%
Less likely	23%	18%	29%	23%
Unsure	13%	11%	12%	16%

Would you be more or less likely to support temporary lockouts if you knew that other types of lockouts in the Medicaid program have shown that people usually do not return to Medicaid after the lockout period is over?				
More likely	60%	65%	51%	64%
Less likely	22%	14%	31%	22%
Unsure	18%	21%	18%	15%

DEMOGRAPHICS	Party Affiliation			Age			Gender	
		34% R	37% D	29% I	39% 18-44	40% 45-64	21% 65+	48% MALE

Results for this poll are based on automated telephone interviews conducted among a nationwide sample of 511 likely voters. Data for this survey research was collected by Cor Strategies Inc.

Interviews were conducted via a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system utilizing techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation. The surveys were conducted August 19-21, 2019. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4.34 percentage points. The margin of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups. Results presented may not always appear to total 100 percent due to rounding.

Data was sampled using weighted demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement and the state election authorities. Demographic information for actual voters in past elections were used to construct sample target weights.

The Foundation for Government Accountability paid for all costs associated with this survey.

