

State of the Nation

A divisive agenda

Stephen Ansolabehere

As the final House vote on health care confirmed, Congress is starkly polarized over President Obama's agenda. A poll shows similar divisions among the rest of us.

How would you have voted?

Support by affiliation

	Yes	No	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Comprehensive Health Reform Act (polling conducted on the January 2009 bill) Insurance-purchase mandate and public option	50	50	80	19	42
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act The stimulus bill	51	49	80	21	43
Sotomayor appointment	51	49	82	21	46
American Clean Energy and Security Act Cap-and-trade, plus funding for renewables	58	42	83	34	28

Which of the proposed health care reforms did Americans support?

	Support	Oppose	Neither/not sure
Require businesses to provide health insurance for employees and their families, with tax breaks for small businesses.	61	19	20
Limit medical malpractice damages.	57	19	24
Establish a public insurance entity.	48	32	20
Mandate purchase of health insurance, with government subsidies for the poor.	31	45	24
Make patients pay more for treatments that have not been proven effective, even if recommended by a doctor.	12	63	25

All numbers expressed in percentages.

Source: **November 2009 interviews of 13,000 U.S. adults by the Cooperative Congressional Election Study.**