



Campaign For Effective Patient Care

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Poll on Evidence-Based Medicine Shows California Voters Want Health Care Decisions to be Grounded in Science

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Californians support health reforms that assure doctors and patients can rely on scientific evidence to inform decisions made in the everyday practice of medicine, according to a new poll conducted by a nationally-recognized research group. The poll results announced today show voters want to know that their doctors will share data about treatments when it is available, and tell them when it is not, so that they have sound information with which to make health care decisions.

“Our recent survey shows that Californians want their doctors to make health care decisions based on scientific evidence as well as on their own experience,” said Celinda Lake, president of Lake Research Partners. “California voters think the use of scientific evidence in a doctor's decision is common sense.”

A striking finding from the poll is that Californians have a misconception about the care they receive today. The majority of the 800 voters surveyed believe that most or almost all of the care they receive is grounded in scientific evidence. However, studies by the prestigious Institute of Medicine and others show that, at best, only half of the care delivered in the U.S. is supported by scientific evidence.

“Our conclusion is that because the use of evidence-based medicine makes so much sense, voters believe it is widely used now. Knowing that, it is even more important to have policies in place that support the use of evidence-based medicine so that patients can have real confidence that they are receiving the most effective care available,” said Maryann O’Sullivan, executive director of the Campaign for Effective Patient Care, which commissioned the survey.

The Campaign for Effective Patient Care was founded this year with support from AARP, California Association of Physician Groups, and Blue Shield of California to advocate for the infrastructure and incentives that support the use of current, objective, scientific evidence in medical decision making by doctors and patients. The nonprofit commissioned the poll to help inform the health care debate and to increase understanding about voters’ views regarding the use of science in the delivery of their health care.

For a copy of Lake’s presentation of the poll results, statements from Consumers Union, AARP, Pacific Business Group on Health and others about the poll, and for more information about the Campaign for Effective Patient Care, please go to www.campaignforeffectivepatientcare.org

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