

Medical students' knowledge and attitudes toward the Affordable Care Act and other health care policy issues

Dear [FirstName] [LastName],

As a future physician, you will play an increasingly significant role in the implementation of the new national health care law, as well as future reform efforts. Whether reform efforts are successful depends, in part, on the willingness of physicians to engage in the reform process. Therefore, it is important to understand medical students' knowledge and attitudes towards important health care policy issues.

Because you are a medical student at a participating study site, you have been selected to participate in this important survey. As part of a limited number of participants, your feedback is critical to the success and accuracy of this study.

You may access the survey here: [SurveyLink]

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

Your responses will be kept confidential and anonymous; your name will not be linked in any way to your answers. Your participation is completely voluntary and your completion of this survey will serve as your consent to be in this research study. This study has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at your institution. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant you may call the University of Minnesota Institutional Review Board at 612-626-5654.

Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact Derek Donovan, co-investigator, at donovan2@email.arizona.edu or Dr. Tyler Winkelman at wink0137@umn.edu.

Please note, Derek is a third medical student at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix. He will be using the data collected from students at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix for his scholarly project, which will include a thesis and poster presentation. By completing this survey, you will not only be contributing to a fellow student's research project, but also to a national study that has the potential to impact future medical student education throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Tyler Winkelman, MD
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John Song, MD, MPH, MAT
Internal Medicine and Center for Bioethics, University of Minnesota

Derek Donovan
Medical Student, University of Arizona College of Medicine

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Meredith Niess, MD, MPH
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Internal Medicine and Medical Ethics, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Paul Gorman, MD
Associate Professor, Oregon Health & Science University

If you do not wish to participate in this study, please click the link below, and you will be removed as a study participant.
[RemoveLink]

SECTION A: PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)

A. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding several health care policy issues by selecting the response that best represents your opinion.

1. I understand the basic components of the Affordable Care Act.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

2. I support the Affordable Care Act.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

3. Physicians are professionally obligated to assist with implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

4. The Affordable Care Act will have a negative influence on my future career in medicine.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

B. Please indicate your knowledge regarding the following statements by selecting the response that best represents your understanding

1. The Affordable Care Act requires individuals to have health insurance or else pay a fine.

- a. True
- b. False

2. The Affordable Care Act increases payments to primary care physicians for two years.

- a. True
- b. False

3. The Affordable Care Act creates a new government-run insurance plan to be offered along with private plans.

- a. True
- b. False

4. **The Affordable Care Act allows the federal government to expand Medicaid in every state.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
5. **The Affordable Care Act requires large businesses (More than 100 employees) to provide health insurance for their employees or else pay a fine.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. **The Affordable Care Act includes an overhaul of tort reform law.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
7. **The Affordable Care Act defines benefits that private insurance companies must include in their insurance plans.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. **The Affordable Care Act creates health insurance exchanges or marketplaces where small businesses and individuals can purchase insurance and compare prices and benefits.**
 - a. True
 - b. False
9. **The Affordable Care Act prevents people from being denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

C. If you wish, please tell us your thoughts regarding the provisions of the Affordable Care Act you support.

D. If you wish, please tell us your thoughts regarding the provisions of the Affordable Care Act you do not support.

SECTION B: HEALTH CARE POLICY ISSUES

A. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding health policy by selecting the response that best represents your opinion.

1. **Medical care should be provided to all, regardless of ability to pay.**

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

2. Access to health care is a privilege, not a right.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

3. Addressing health care policy issues, as important as that may be, falls outside the scope of the professional obligations of a physician.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

4. The threat of malpractice lawsuits substantially increases the overall cost of health care.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

5. I would favor limiting physician income in order to expand access to basic care for those currently lacking such care.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

6. Every physician is professionally obligated to care for the uninsured and underinsured.

- a. Strongly disagree
- b. Disagree
- c. No opinion
- d. Agree
- e. Strongly agree

B. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following policies. Some of these policies have been enacted, while others are hypothetical scenarios.

I support...

- 1. Expanding Medicaid coverage to provide insurance to more low-income Americans.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 2. Allowing insurance companies to deny coverage for “pre-existing conditions.”**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 3. Keeping children and young adults on their parents’ health insurance until age 26.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 4. Undocumented immigrants receiving health insurance through government assistance programs.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 5. Legislation that would enact a ‘single-payer’ health care system.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 6. Increasing payments to physicians who provide primary care.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 7. Increasing payments to physicians who provide specialty care.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree

- e. Strongly agree

SECTION C: MEDICAL EDUCATION

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding medical education by selecting the response that best represents your opinion.

- 1. Health care policy topics should be included in medical education.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 2. My medical education has provided adequate training in health care policy.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 3. My medical education has provided adequate advocacy education.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 4. Medical school debt has or will influence my choice of specialty.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 5. Future earnings have or will influence my choice of specialty.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

- 6. I have chosen to be politically active during medical school.**
 - a. Strongly disagree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. No opinion
 - d. Agree
 - e. Strongly agree

SECTION D: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please answer the following questions by circling the letter in front of the response choice that best describes you.

- 1. What is your age?**
 - a. 20 to 24
 - b. 25 to 29
 - c. 30 to 34
 - d. 35 to 39
 - e. 40 or older

- 2. What is your gender?**
 - a. Female
 - b. Male

- 3. Are you Hispanic or Latino?**
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

- 4. What is your race? (Select one or more responses)**
 - a. American Indian or Alaska Native
 - b. Asian (Please specify: _____)
 - c. Black or African American
 - d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - e. White
 - f. Other (Please specify: _____)

- 5. What is your medical school class?**
 - a. MS1
 - b. MS2
 - c. MS3
 - d. MS4
 - e. Currently completing additional degree

- 6. Which medical school do you attend?**
 - a. Baylor
 - b. Harvard
 - c. Johns Hopkins University
 - d. Mayo
 - e. Oregon Health & Science University
 - f. University of Arizona - Phoenix
 - g. University of Arizona – Tucson
 - h. University of Cincinnati
 - i. University of Colorado
 - j. University of Louisville
 - k. University of Minnesota – Duluth
 - l. University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
 - m. University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
 - n. Vanderbilt

- 7. What is your intended specialty?**
 - a. Anesthesiology

- b. Dermatology
- c. Emergency Medicine
- d. Family Medicine
- e. General Surgery
- f. Internal Medicine
- g. Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
- h. Neurology
- i. Neurological Surgery
- j. Obstetrics and Gynecology
- k. Ophthalmology
- l. Orthopaedic Surgery
- m. Otolaryngology
- n. Pathology
- o. Pediatrics
- p. Plastic Surgery
- q. Psychiatry
- r. Radiology
- s. Urology
- t. Other (Please specify: _____)
- u. Unknown

8. What is your political ideology?

- a. Conservative
- b. Somewhat conservative
- c. Moderate
- d. Somewhat liberal
- e. Liberal
- f. Other (Please specify: _____)

9. What is your estimated level of educational debt when you graduate from medical school?

- a. None
- b. Less than \$50,000
- c. \$50,000 - \$100,000
- d. \$100,000 - \$200,000
- e. \$200,000 - \$300,000
- f. \$300,000 or more

Thank you for your time and cooperation!