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DATE: November 2, 2021

SUBJECT: October 26 – 28, 2021 Survey Findings

Strategic Partners Solutions conducted a live interview survey of 600 registered Republican voters between October 26 and October 28, 2021. 35% of all persons interviewed were cellphone-only households and 65% were landline interviews. Screening questions were used to determine that each person was a registered Republican voter, and the North Carolina voter file was also used to confirm registration. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 4.0\%$ within a 95% confidence interval.

Participants were asked if they favored or opposed expanding the federal Medicaid health insurance program. 52.2% of Republicans said they favored and 38.5% said they were opposed. 9.3% did not know or refused to answer the question. However, when informed of the key details of the proposal, support grew to 62.2% for a Republican candidate who voted to cut taxes and voted to expand Medicaid versus 23.8% for a Republican candidate who voted to cut taxes and voted against expanded Medicaid.

The key messaging points that swayed GOP voters the most are highlighted below. The full set of survey questions, responses, and crosstabs are available here: [Full Survey](#) | [Crosstabs](#)

GOP voters were read the following and then read a series of statements: I'm now going to read you some arguments about why expanding Medicaid is a good idea. After each, please tell me if the argument would make you more likely to FAVOR, or more likely to OPPOSE, expanding Medicaid in North Carolina so that more people can qualify for this coverage?

Thirty-nine states have expanded Medicaid, including Republican states like Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Indiana. In states where Medicaid has expanded, private health insurance costs have stabilized and many states' healthcare costs have been

lowered. **Based on passage by other Republican states, 62.2% said they would favor and 23.8% said they were opposed.**

Only legal residents of the United States can apply for Medicaid, undocumented immigrants will receive no benefits. Once GOP voters were informed that only legal residents could apply, 74.7% favored while only 12.7% were opposed. Republican voters who were most interested in the upcoming elections were 77.6% in favor to 11.1% opposed. **Republicans who described themselves as very conservative were 78.8% in favor to 11.8% opposed.**

Support for North Carolina veterans was an equally strong messaging point. Veterans of Foreign Wars has endorsed Expanding Medicaid in North Carolina because it will provide coverage to over 30,000 uninsured military veterans, including one out of four veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. 74.7% of Republicans said they would favor to 13.0% who said they were opposed. **Very conservative Republicans were 70.6% favored to 18.0% opposed while Republicans 65 years of age or older were 75.4% in favor to only 12.0% opposed.**

Voters were also read two statements about the benefits of preventative medicine and treatment for life-threatening conditions.

Expanding Medicaid will help people get the medication and treatment they need for chronic conditions like diabetes, cancer, and other life-threatening diseases. **71.5% of Republicans said they would favor while 14.7% said they opposed.** Support was strongest among voters less than 40 years of age, 73.8% favor to 13.6% opposed, compared to voters older than 40, 71.9% would favor to 15.1% opposed.

Medicaid expansion will make North Carolinians healthier by increasing early detection for cancer, heart disease, and other life-threatening illnesses. **71.8% said they would favor, 11.7% were opposed.** Voters less than 40 years of age were 78.7% in favor to 11.8% opposed. Those older than 40 years of age were 71.0% to 14.1% opposed.

The strongest messaging point is the requirement to enroll in a workforce development program. Of those who would be eligible for expanded Medicaid, three-fourths of them are already working, many in more than one job. Anyone who is not already working would be required to enroll in a workforce development program.

75.5% said they would favor to only 14.3% who said they were opposed. Very conservative Republicans were 75.1% in favor to 17.2% opposed. Moderates were 76.6% in favor to 10.3% opposed. Rural voters were most supportive, with 78.6% saying they would favor to 12.9% who said they were opposed.

After the message test, all voters were asked the following:

When it comes to your support for a Republican candidate, which of the following statements best represents your view on the type of candidate you prefer to support. Would you say?

1. I prefer a Republican who has worked to cut taxes and reduce wasteful spending and votes to support expanding healthcare services like Medicaid to help our veterans and working families with children. **62.2% said they preferred.**

OR

2. I prefer a Republican who is only focused on cutting taxes and government spending and votes no to expanding healthcare services like Medicaid that helps our veterans and working families. **23.8% said they preferred.**
3. Don't Know/Refused 14.0%

While GOP lawmakers continue to debate the issue, it is clear the Senate leadership's path of negotiating tax cuts with the Governor while building accountability measures for those who are eligible to enroll in Medicaid is expanding an issue platform that is supported and embraced by core GOP voters once they learn of the benefits of those eligible.