

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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2010 Election Survey Results

Nevada Statewide

Prepared for
AARP Strategic Issues Research

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Introduction and Methodology

AARP commissioned American Viewpoint, Inc. to conduct a series of election surveys in consultation with Hart Research Associates, Inc. Blinded telephone interviewing was conducted with AARP members who are likely voters in the 2010 federal elections. Respondents were selected from random samples of the membership provided by AARP and then screened for likelihood of voting and to confirm AARP membership. Eight surveys were conducted between September 9 and 22 including a national survey with an Hispanic oversample and seven statewide surveys as follows:

Survey Population	Field Dates
U.S. National, n=1,000 with an oversample of n=250 Hispanic voters	9/9-13/2010
Ohio Statewide, n=500	9/12-13/2010
Pennsylvania Statewide, n=500	9/12-14/2010
Nevada Statewide, n=500	9/13-15/2010
New Hampshire Statewide, n=500	9/14-15/2010
Colorado Statewide, n=500	9/14-15/2010
Florida Statewide, n=500	9/19-20/2010
Missouri Statewide, n=500	9/20-21/2010

Data were weighted to sex and age within region, and race. Weights were based on population characteristics. All surveys are subject to errors caused by interviewing a sample of persons rather than the entire population. At 95 percent confidence, the margin of error for a simple random sample of n=1,000 is ± 3.1 percentage points; for n=500, ± 4.4 ; and for n=250, ± 6.2 . Some scores may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Executive Summary

- The Nevada AARP members interviewed are highly likely to vote. In all, 95% say they are definitely planning to vote and another 5% are likely to vote.
- Like many Americans, most Nevada AARP members say that things in the country have gotten off on the wrong track, are dissatisfied with current economic conditions and are concerned about the deficit. In all, 64% say the country is on the wrong track, 85% are dissatisfied with the current state of the economy, and 89% are concerned about the deficit. Fewer than four in ten (37%) think the national economy will get better over the course of the next year while 22% think it will get worse and 34% think it will stay about the same.
- As a result, they are concerned about the future. In addition to near-term misgivings about the economy, there is a widespread belief that conditions for their children's generation will be more difficult than they have experienced. Indeed, just 22% are confident that life for their children's generation will be better than it has been for them while 66% say they are not confident.
- At the same time, most are at least somewhat satisfied with their own economic situation. In fact, 67% are satisfied overall (20% very satisfied) while 31% of all members are dissatisfied with their own economic situation. In addition, they are reasonably optimistic about their economic outlook in the near-term. Most (58%) indicate that their personal financial situation will remain about the same in the next year while 22% think it will get better and 16% worse.
- Part of this optimism may stem from their confidence in Social Security. Two-thirds (66%) of Nevada members are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement while 26% are not confident. The inherent value of Social Security is underscored by the fact virtually all respondents (94%) – regardless of political affiliation, ideology, or demographic characteristics – say that it is important to them that Social Security is there for future generations.
- To that end, 91% of the AARP members interviewed in Nevada say it is important that a candidate in the 2010 election pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.

Executive Summary

- With regard to the deficit, Nevada AARP members do not support reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit. The vast majority (67%) agree more with a hypothetical candidate who says that Social Security is essential for retirement security and that cutting the benefits of future retirees will place an unfair burden on them. One in four (24%) agrees more with a candidate who says that Social Security is one of the biggest federal programs and we can't control the deficit without reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees.
- Furthermore, 59% say that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors reducing the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees. Opposition is strong across the state's subgroups and cuts across age, income and party affiliation. Indeed, a majority of Republicans (51%), Democrats (71%) and Independents (53%) would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors this approach.
- Medicare fraud is perceived to be a major problem that adds substantially to the cost of the program (69%). Nevada members' reasoning for cracking down on Medicare fraud is focused more on maintaining the overall strength of the program than on the impact on their own health or finances. The top reason to crack down on Medicare fraud is to keep Medicare financially strong (50%), although a substantial number say the most important reason to fight fraud is that it will save consumers money (14%), protect seniors' health (12%) or help reduce the deficit (10%).
- Nevada members are very responsive to a number of bipartisan legislative proposals that have been offered in Congress to fight Medicare fraud. Most (88%) say that "significantly increasing penalties for criminals who commit fraud" would be at least somewhat helpful in helping minimize Medicare fraud and identity theft of Medicare patients, including 65% who say it would help to a great extent. Similarly, 88% say that "changing the way Medicare pays claims so that suspicious claims would have to be verified before they are paid" would help; 59% a great deal. Further, 64% say it would be helpful to "prevent Medicare from using a person's Social Security number as their Medicare number" (33% a great deal). Here again, a majority of AARP members (66%) are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these proposals while just 4% are less likely.

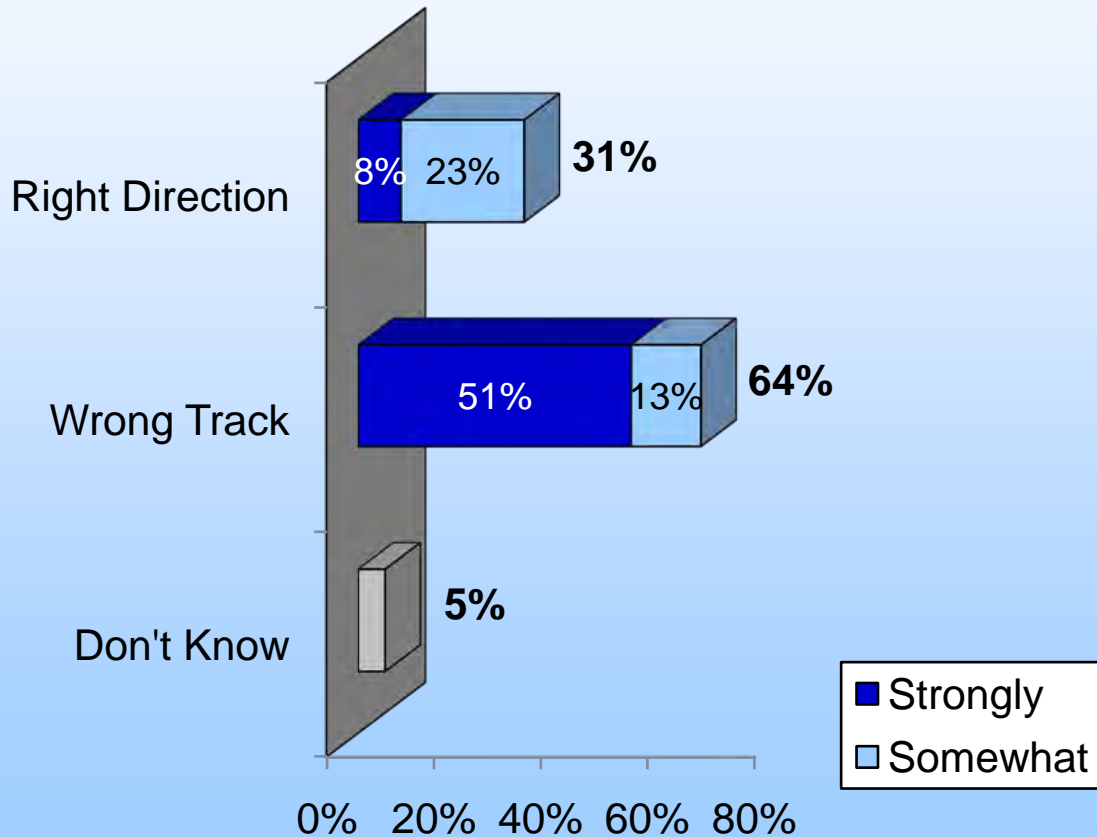
Executive Summary

- Nevada members see the threat of annual reduction in reimbursement rates to Medicare doctors as a problem and support a permanent solution. In all, 82% of AARP Medicare beneficiaries say that they are concerned – and 60% are very concerned – that if the 23% cut in payments takes place in December as scheduled, their current doctors will stop accepting Medicare. Future retirees are also concerned; 81% of those not currently enrolled in Medicare say that they are concerned – 57% very – that if Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem, it will limit their access to doctors when they become Medicare eligible.
- As a result, a majority (59%) would be more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in reimbursement rates to doctors. Just 4% are less likely.

Political Environment

Mood of the Country: Like other Americans, many Nevada AARP members are dissatisfied with the direction of the country – 64% say things are off on the wrong track. Majorities of most major subgroups hold this view while just 31% overall say things are going in the right direction. A more positive perspective is found among Democrats (64% right direction) and liberals (66%).

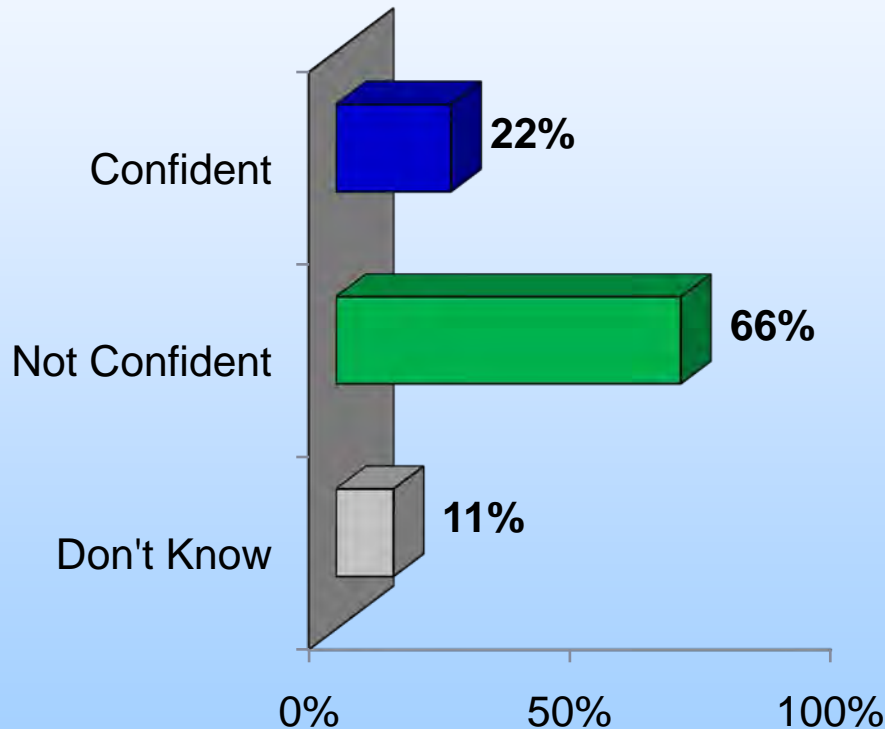
Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?



	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Las Vegas	31%	63%
Reno	29%	66%
Male 64 & under	28%	69%
Male 65+	25%	69%
Female 64 & under	35%	60%
Female 65+	33%	59%
Republican	5%	94%
Ticket Splitter	22%	71%
Democrat	64%	31%
Liberal	66%	31%
Moderate	38%	55%
Conservative	5%	93%

Life for our Children's Generation: Most Nevada members lack confidence that life will be better for their children's generation than it has been for them. Again, this sentiment is found across most of the population with few exceptions. Indeed, there is little difference between those with higher and lower income levels.

Do you feel confident or not confident that life for our children's generation will be better than it has been for us?

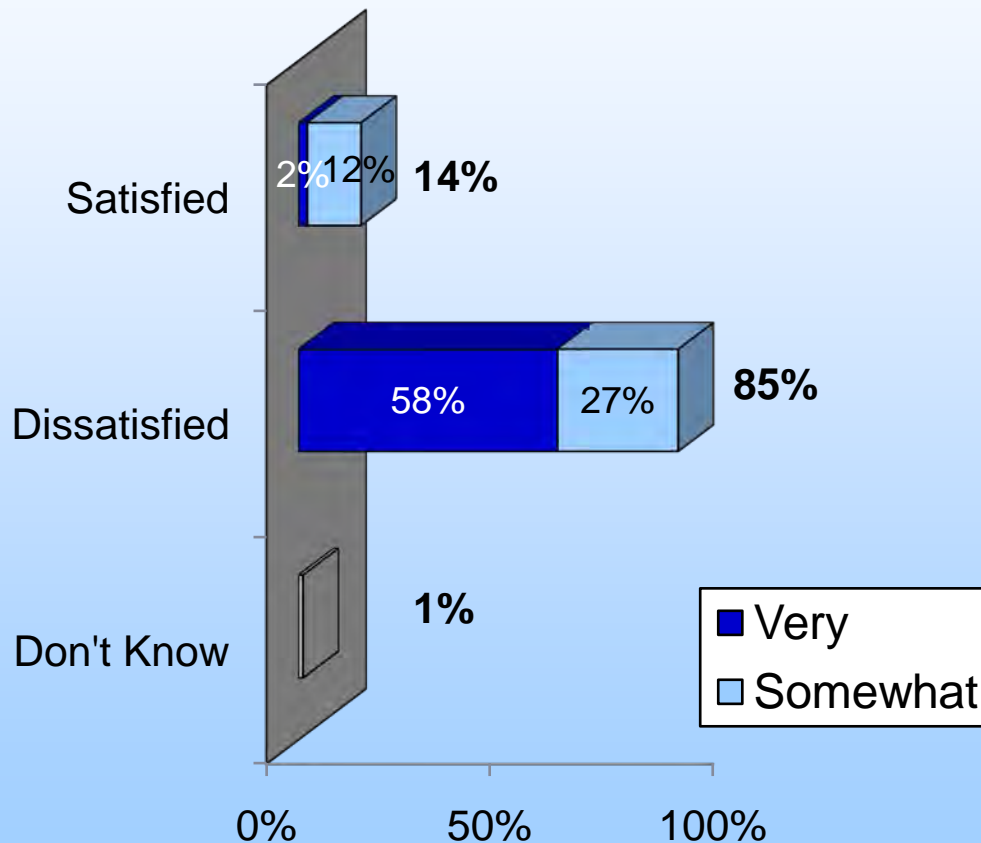


	Confident	Not Confident
Las Vegas	24%	65%
Reno	18%	69%
Male 64 & under	22%	68%
Male 65+	19%	72%
Female 64 & under	21%	65%
Female 65+	25%	60%
Republican	9%	85%
Ticket Splitter	20%	68%
Democrat	34%	50%
Liberal	34%	48%
Moderate	29%	59%
Conservative	9%	85%
Under \$30K	20%	66%
\$30K-\$49K	28%	58%
\$50K-\$74K	22%	70%
\$75K and Over	22%	68%

The Economy

Dissatisfaction with the economy: Most Nevada members are dissatisfied with the current state of the U.S. economy.

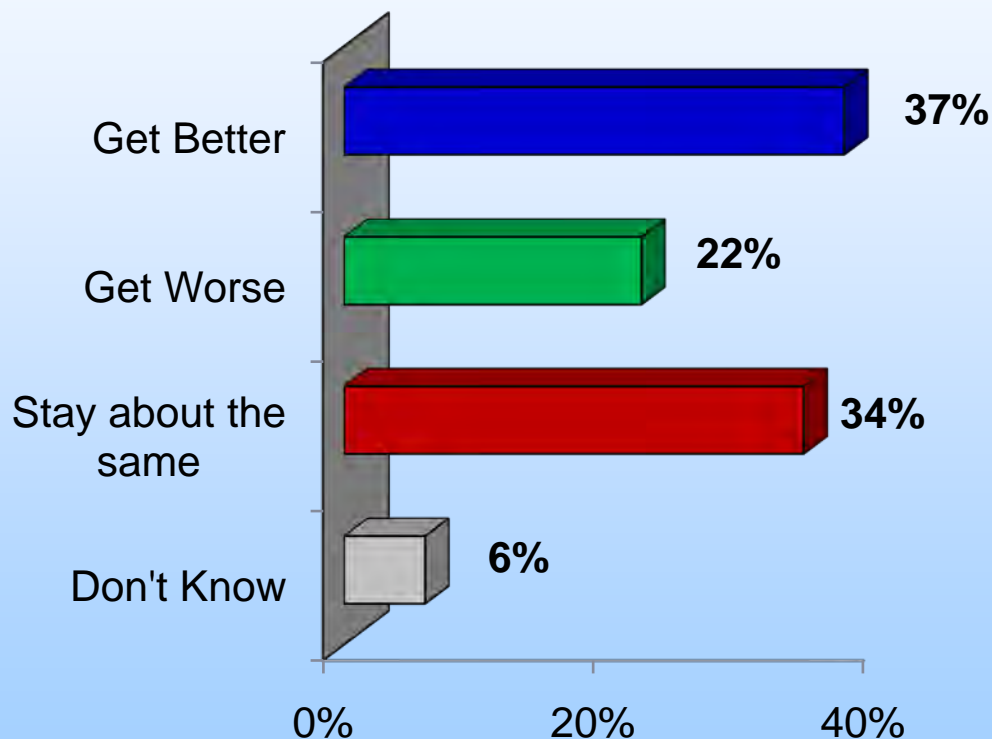
How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Las Vegas	14%	85%
Reno	14%	84%
Male 64 & under	12%	87%
Male 65+	15%	83%
Female 64 & under	15%	85%
Female 65+	13%	85%
Republican	7%	93%
Ticket Splitter	12%	87%
Democrat	22%	77%
Liberal	28%	71%
Moderate	14%	85%
Conservative	6%	93%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	18%	81%
Not Confident	5%	95%

Economic outlook: 37% think the economy will get better in the next year, 22% that it will get worse, and 34% that it will stay about the same. Democrats, liberals, moderates, women and those who are confident about Social Security are among the most optimistic about the economic outlook.

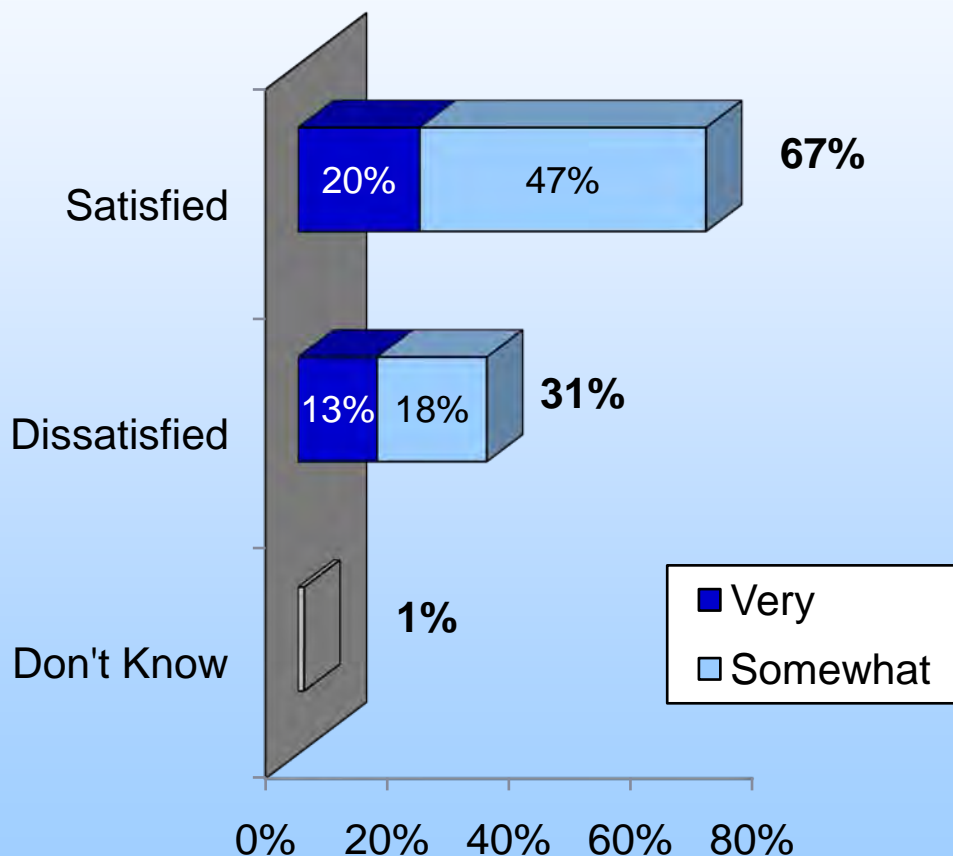
Thinking about a year from now, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same as it is now?



	Get Better	Get Worse	Same
Las Vegas	38%	21%	35%
Reno	35%	25%	33%
Male 64 & under	29%	20%	43%
Male 65+	31%	26%	37%
Female 64 & under	43%	22%	32%
Female 65+	42%	22%	28%
Republican	19%	41%	33%
Ticket Splitter	31%	24%	39%
Democrat	61%	6%	27%
Liberal	64%	6%	28%
Moderate	42%	16%	36%
Conservative	19%	38%	35%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	44%	14%	37%
Not Confident	16%	44%	32%

Satisfaction with personal financial situation: Most Nevada members are at least somewhat satisfied with their own financial situation. Those who lack confidence in Social Security are less satisfied than those who are confident that they will continue to receive benefits throughout retirement.

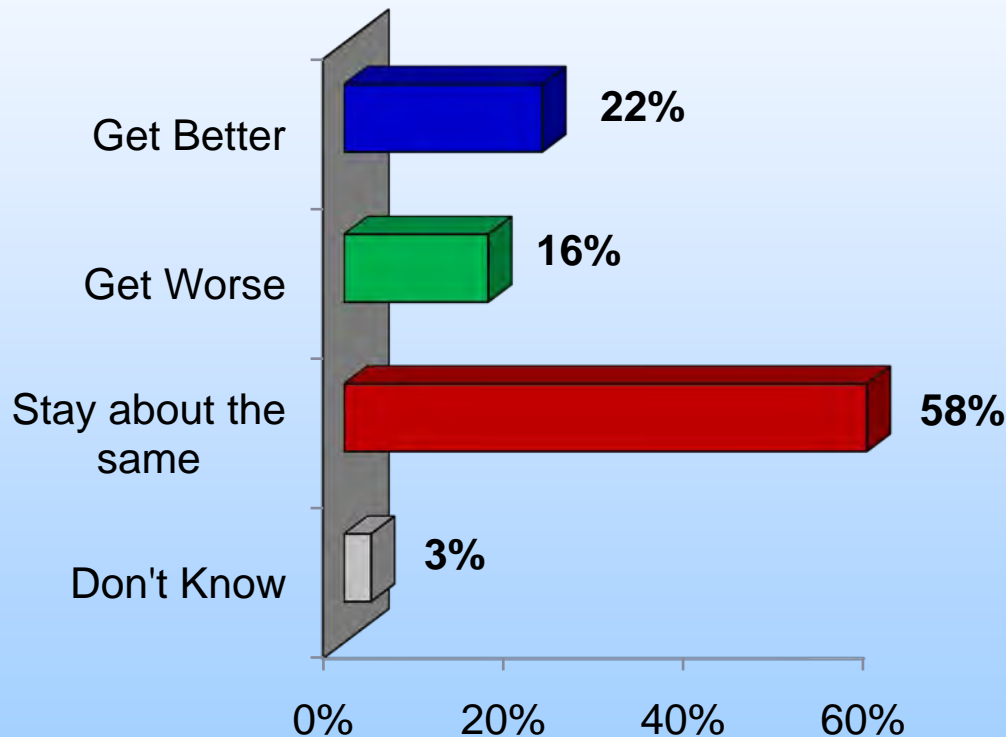
How satisfied are you with the state of your own financial situation today – are you: very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your own financial situation?



	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Las Vegas	66%	31%
Reno	69%	29%
Male 64 & under	65%	33%
Male 65+	70%	28%
Female 64 & under	60%	38%
Female 65+	71%	25%
Republican	65%	34%
Ticket Splitter	66%	31%
Democrat	71%	27%
Liberal	70%	28%
Moderate	67%	30%
Conservative	65%	33%
Under \$30K	53%	47%
\$30K-\$49K	73%	27%
\$50K-\$74K	64%	35%
\$75K and Over	72%	26%
S.S. Through Retire.		
Confident	72%	26%
Not Confident	51%	46%

Most Nevada members indicate that their personal financial situation will be stable in the next year.

Thinking about a year from now, do you think your personal financial situation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same as it is now?

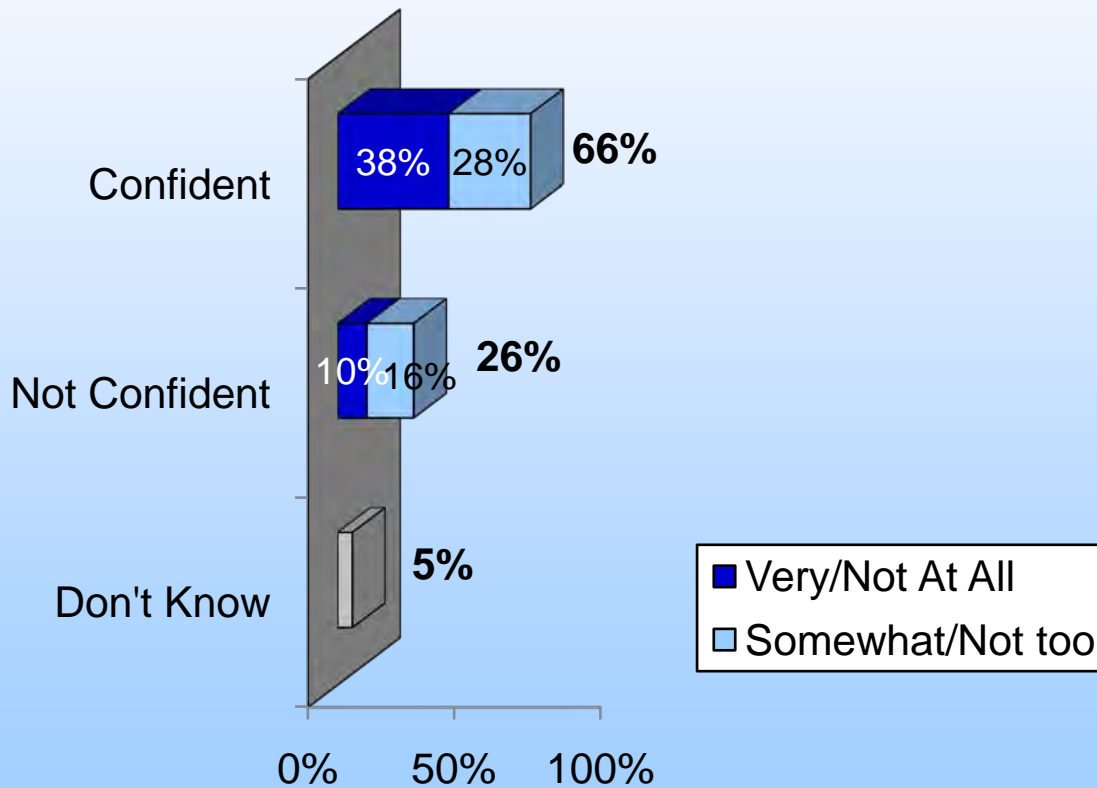


	Get Better	Get Worse	Same
Las Vegas	24%	14%	59%
Reno	18%	21%	58%
Male 64 & under	27%	14%	55%
Male 65+	18%	23%	58%
Female 64 & under	28%	11%	57%
Female 65+	16%	16%	62%
Republican	16%	21%	59%
Ticket Splitter	18%	19%	59%
Democrat	30%	5%	61%
Liberal	35%	8%	56%
Moderate	21%	13%	64%
Conservative	18%	24%	53%
S.S. Through Retire.			
Confident	24%	12%	62%
Not Confident	14%	28%	52%

Social Security

Confidence in Social Security: Nearly two-thirds of Nevada AARP members say they are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement. However, fewer than four in ten respondents (38%) express high confidence. Younger women are less confident than men or older women. Republicans and Ticket-Splitters are less confident than Democrats.

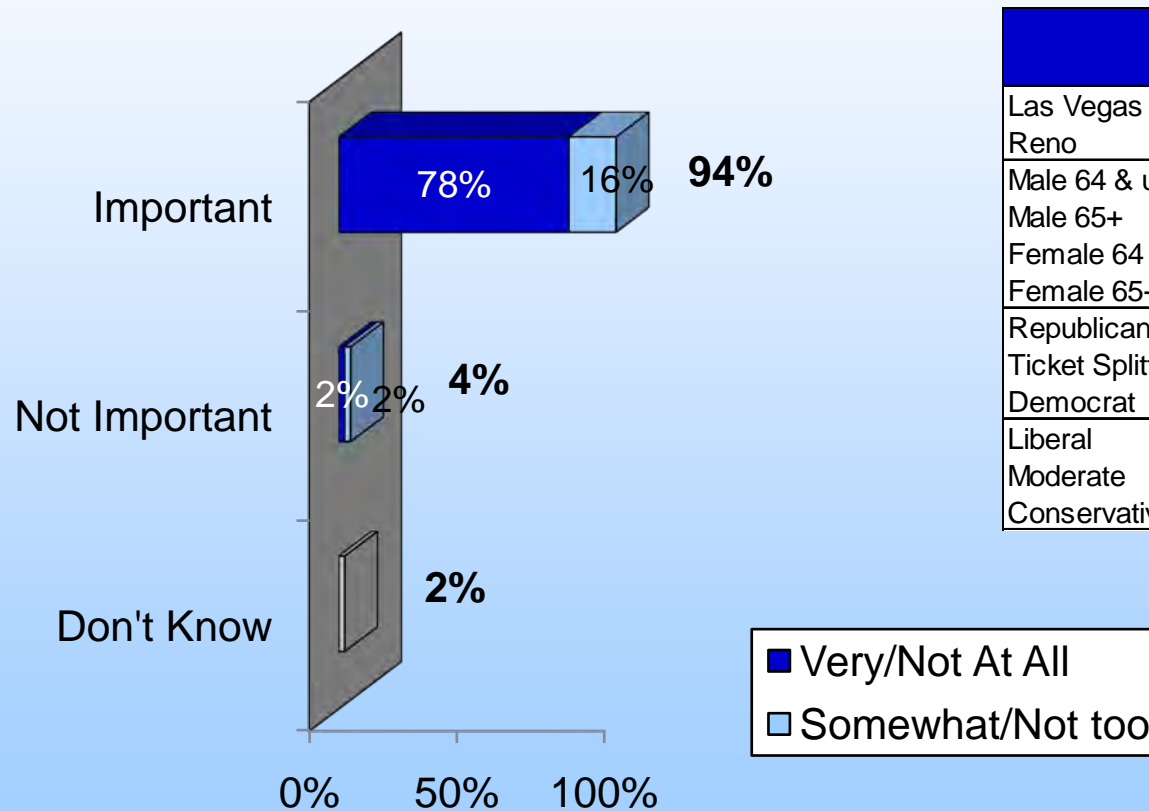
How confident are you that you will receive full Social Security benefits throughout your retirement?



	Confident	Not Confident
Las Vegas	66%	25%
Reno	67%	26%
Male 64 & under	67%	28%
Male 65+	75%	18%
Female 64 & under	53%	38%
Female 65+	69%	20%
Republican	60%	36%
Ticket Splitter	64%	28%
Democrat	74%	15%
Liberal	77%	15%
Moderate	70%	19%
Conservative	59%	38%

The future of Social Security is important to Nevada members: Virtually all members say it is important to them that Social Security is there for future generations.

How important is it to you that Social Security is there for future generations?

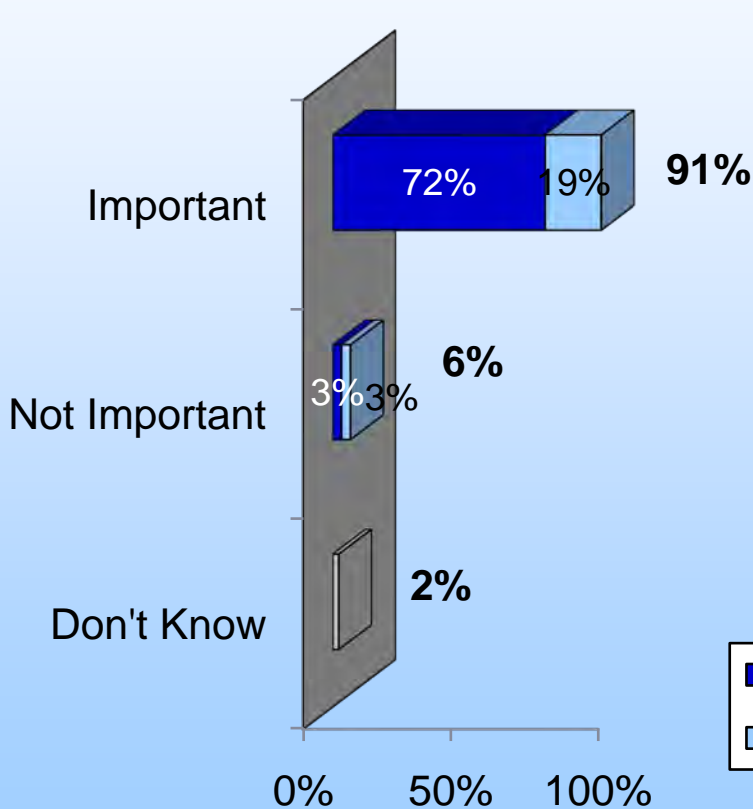


	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Las Vegas	93%	76%	5%
Reno	95%	82%	3%
Male 64 & under	90%	68%	7%
Male 65+	97%	85%	3%
Female 64 & under	93%	77%	4%
Female 65+	94%	80%	2%
Republican	85%	71%	12%
Ticket Splitter	96%	78%	2%
Democrat	98%	84%	1%
Liberal	100%	83%	0%
Moderate	96%	81%	2%
Conservative	90%	74%	7%

Nevada AARP members want candidates to pledge their commitment to Social Security:

Across the population, there is a nearly universal sentiment that it is important for candidates in the 2010 election to voice their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.

In the 2010 election campaign, how important is it to you that a candidate pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit.

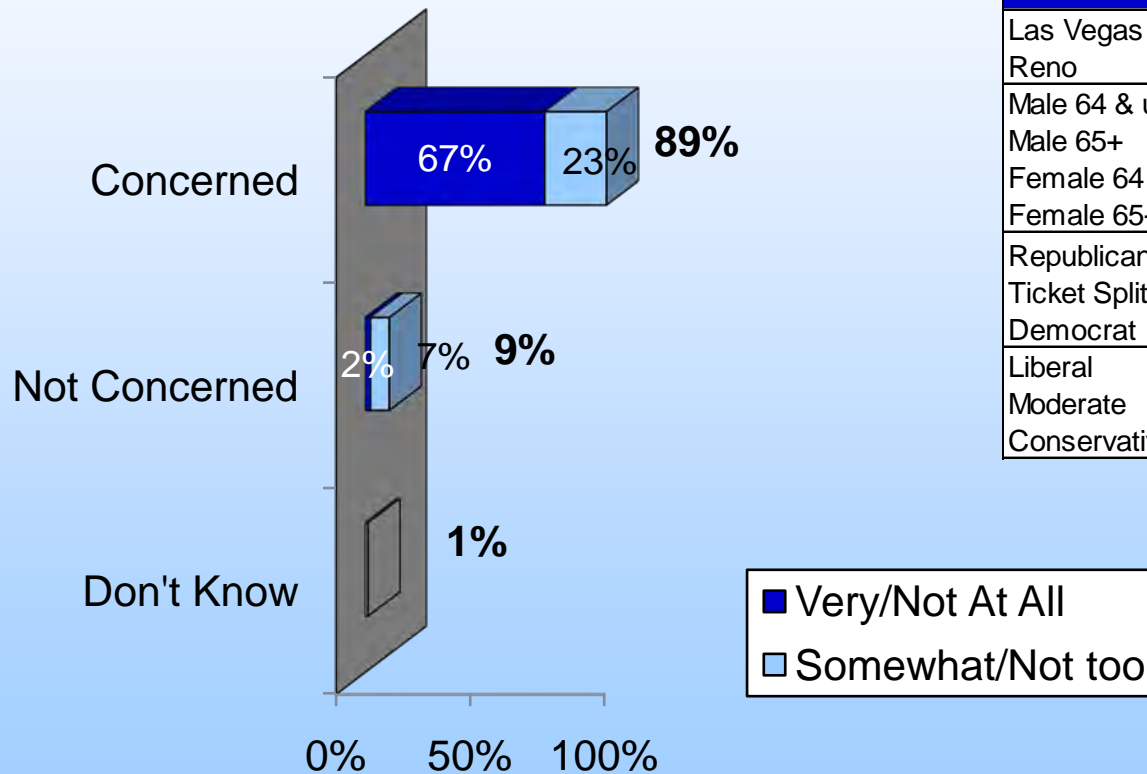


	Total Important	Very Important	Not Important
Las Vegas	91%	72%	6%
Reno	92%	72%	4%
Male 64 & under	88%	60%	10%
Male 65+	95%	80%	3%
Female 64 & under	90%	69%	8%
Female 65+	92%	78%	2%
Republican	81%	62%	14%
Ticket Splitter	94%	71%	3%
Democrat	96%	81%	3%
Liberal	98%	83%	2%
Moderate	93%	78%	4%
Conservative	87%	63%	9%

The Deficit

Concern about the national deficit runs high across the Nevada member population: 89% are concerned about the deficit and 67% are very concerned.

How concerned are you about the national deficit?



	Total Concerned	Very Concerned	Not Concerned
Las Vegas	89%	67%	10%
Reno	91%	65%	8%
Male 64 & under	86%	62%	12%
Male 65+	90%	71%	8%
Female 64 & under	90%	63%	10%
Female 65+	90%	69%	8%
Republican	95%	86%	2%
Ticket Splitter	92%	73%	7%
Democrat	81%	42%	19%
Liberal	82%	43%	18%
Moderate	89%	60%	11%
Conservative	95%	85%	3%

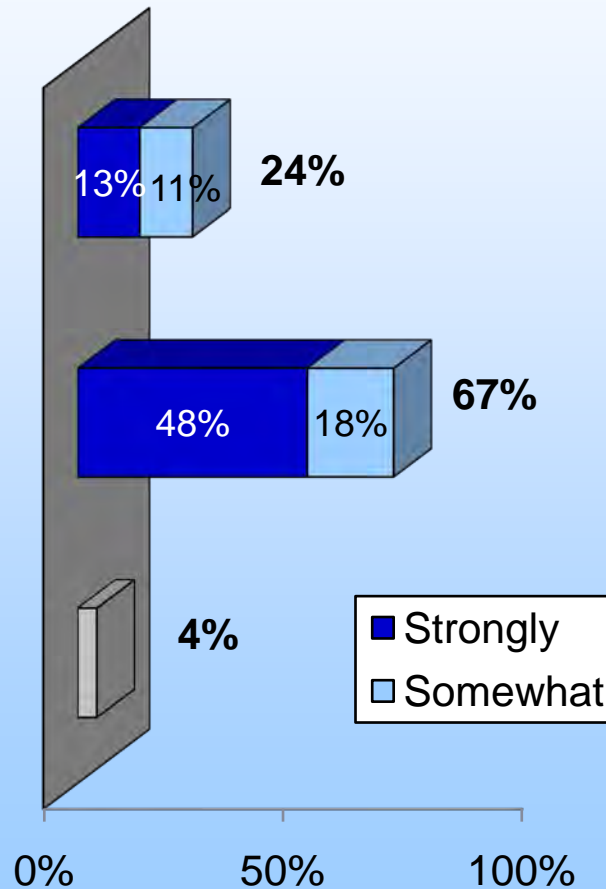
Two-thirds of Nevada AARP members reject the idea of reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees in order to control the deficit: Only one in four would agree more with a candidate who says we can't control the deficit without reducing the Social Security benefits of future retirees.

Which of these two candidates do you agree with more?

Says Social Security is one of the biggest federal programs and we can't control the deficit without reducing Social Security benefits for future retirees.

Says Social Security is essential for the retirement security of senior citizens and cutting the benefits of future retirees will place an unfair burden on them.

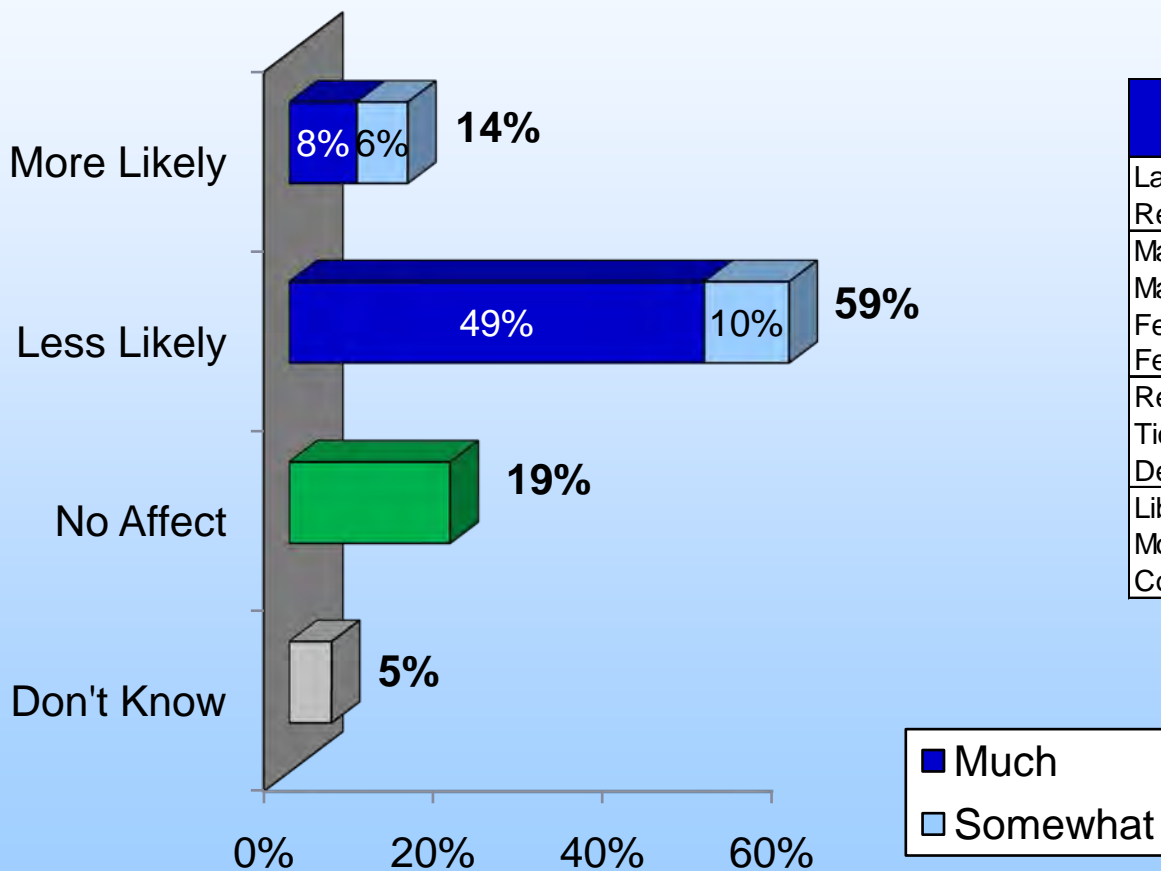
Don't Know



	Cuts Needed	Unfair Burden
Las Vegas	27%	63%
Reno	16%	75%
Male 64 & under	33%	63%
Male 65+	28%	61%
Female 64 & under	20%	69%
Female 65+	16%	73%
Republican	31%	57%
Ticket Splitter	25%	66%
Democrat	18%	75%
Liberal	20%	74%
Moderate	18%	73%
Conservative	32%	58%

Nevada AARP members would be less likely to vote for a candidate who would reduce the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees. 59%, including a majority of Ticket-Splitters and Democrats – as well as a plurality of Republicans – would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors this approach.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who favors reducing the deficit by cutting Social Security benefits for future retirees, or would it not affect your vote either way?

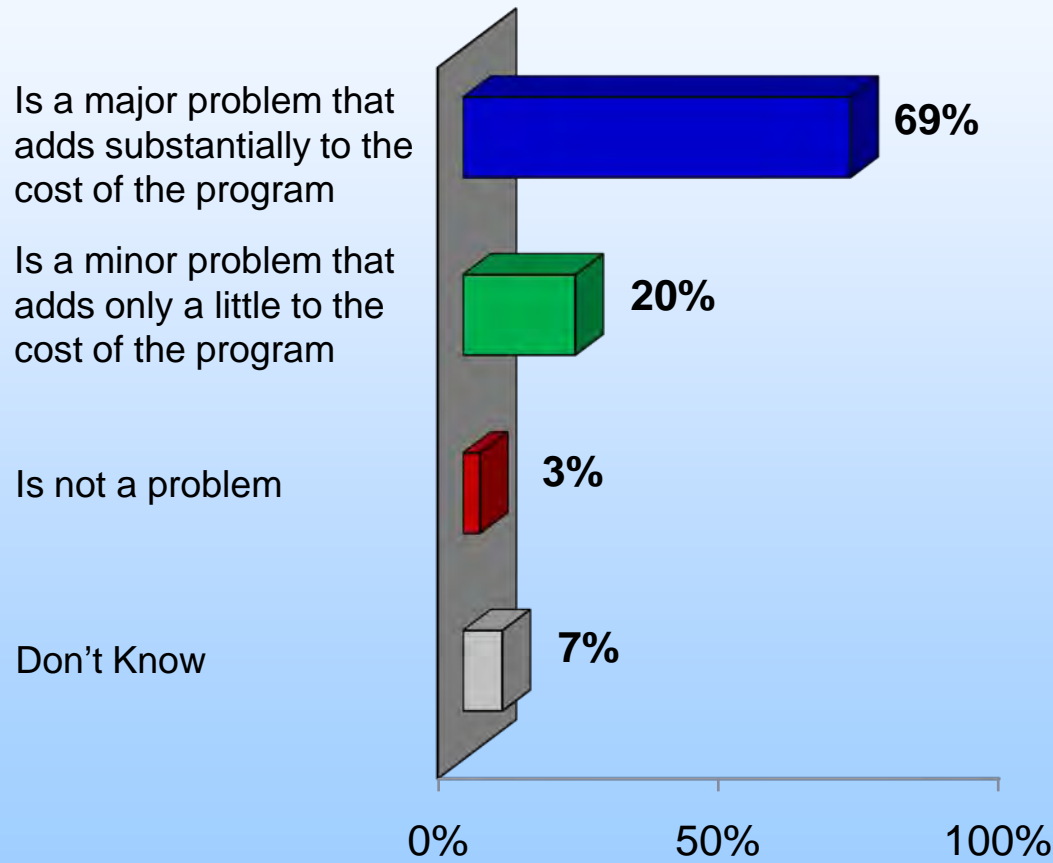


	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Las Vegas	14%	57%	20%
Reno	15%	62%	16%
Male 64 & under	13%	56%	21%
Male 65+	16%	58%	22%
Female 64 & under	19%	59%	16%
Female 65+	10%	62%	17%
Republican	20%	44%	23%
Ticket Splitter	14%	56%	21%
Democrat	10%	75%	12%
Liberal	13%	74%	9%
Moderate	10%	64%	20%
Conservative	19%	47%	22%

Reducing Medicare Fraud

Medicare fraud is seen as a major problem that adds substantially to the cost of the program. In all, 69% say fraud is a major problem, 20% a minor problem, and 3% that it is not a problem. Majorities of all major subgroups call fraud a major problem.

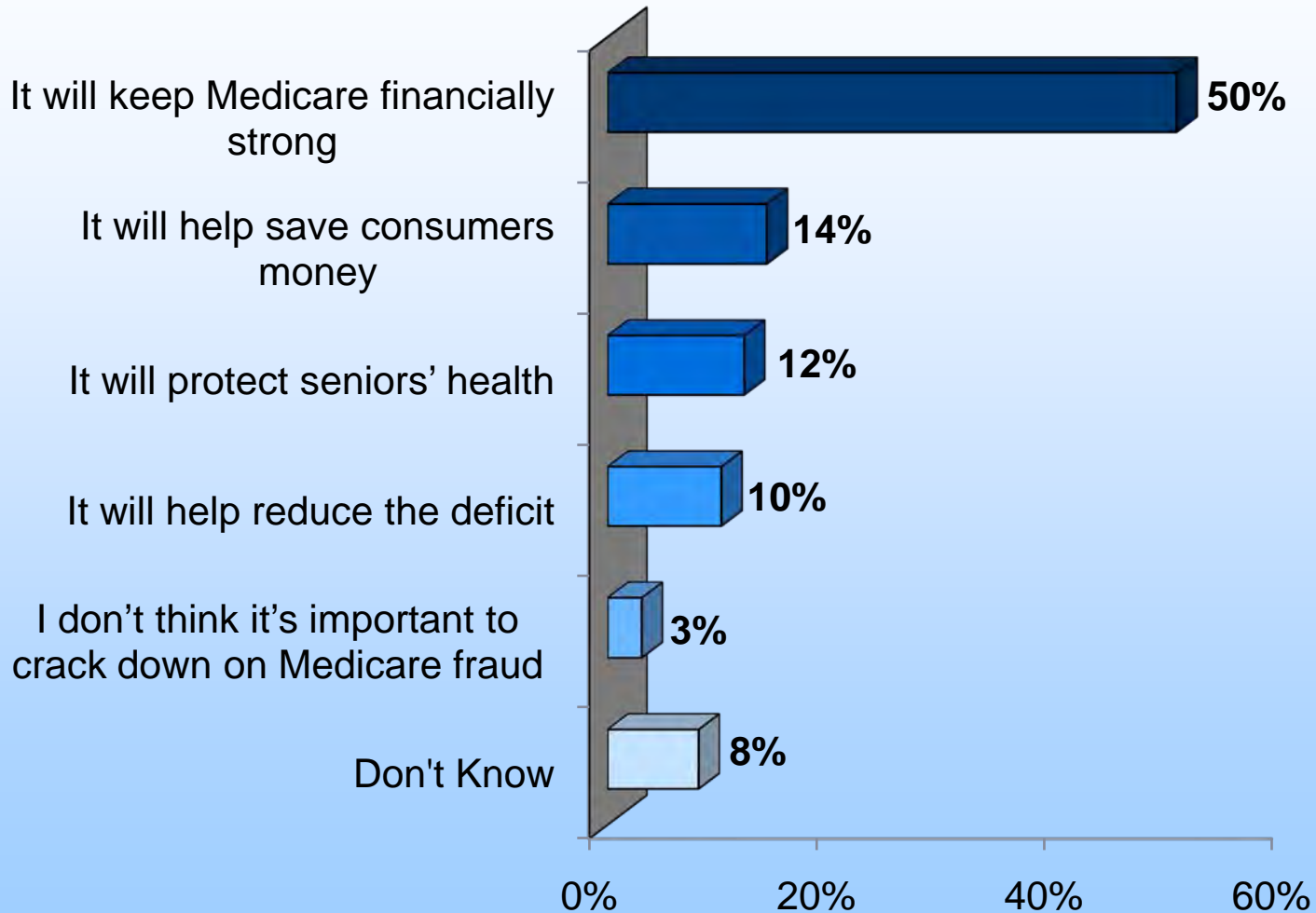
Would you say that Medicare fraud:



	Major Problem	Minor Problem
Las Vegas	71%	19%
Reno	67%	22%
Male 64 & under	63%	21%
Male 65+	71%	20%
Female 64 & under	62%	26%
Female 65+	80%	14%
Republican	80%	13%
Ticket Splitter	70%	19%
Democrat	62%	27%
Liberal	64%	25%
Moderate	68%	22%
Conservative	74%	17%

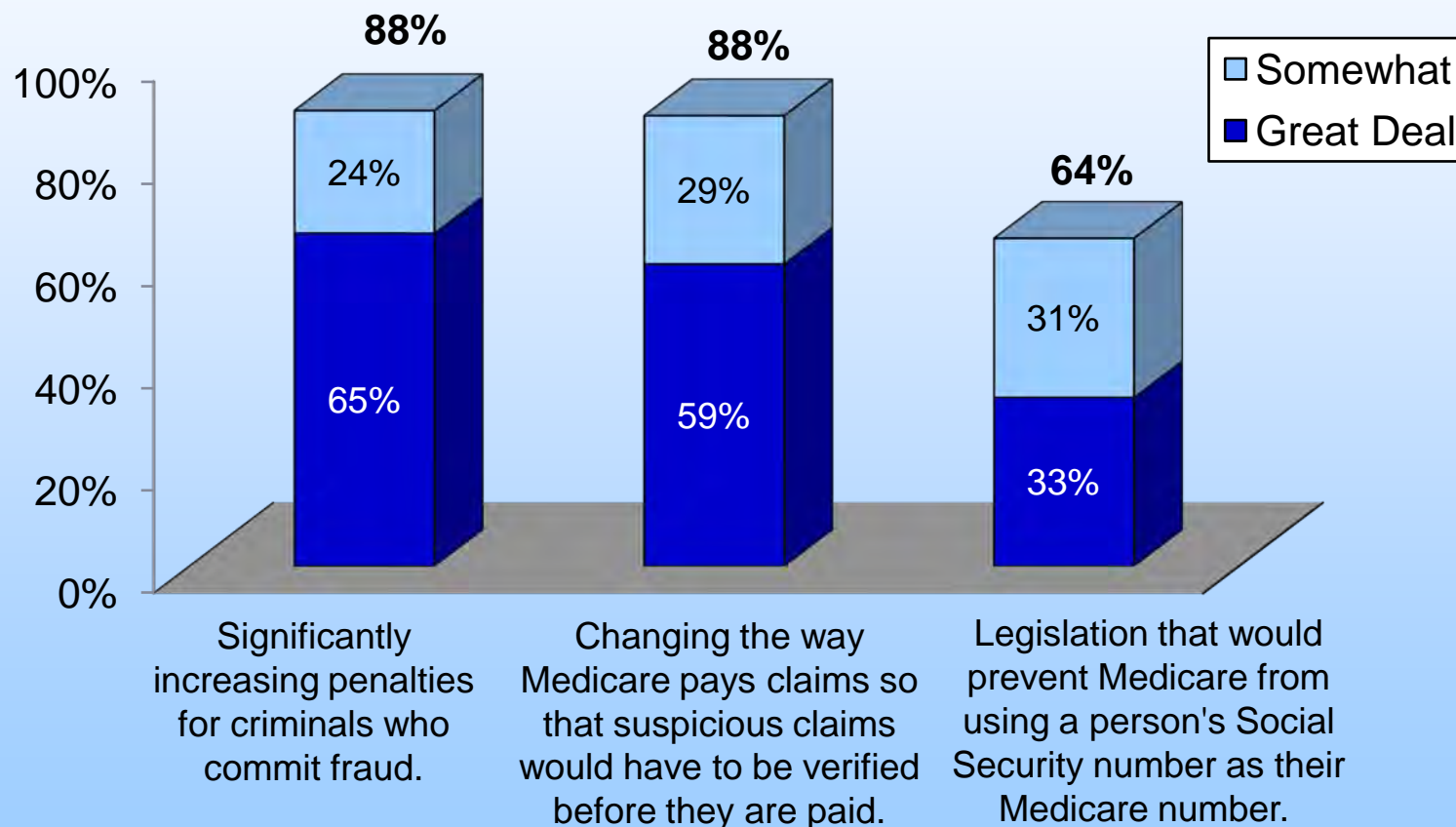
Cracking down on Medicare Fraud: A plurality of Nevada AARP members say the most important reason to crack down on fraud is to keep Medicare financially strong.

Which do you think is the most important reason to crack down on Medicare fraud?



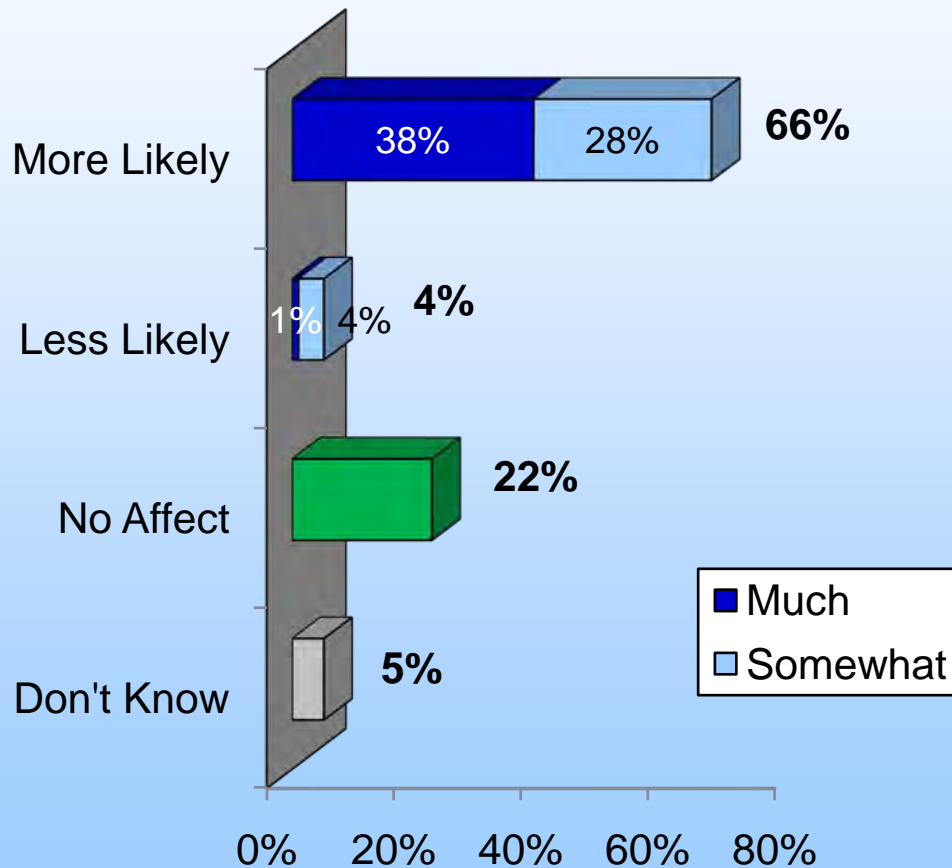
Nevada members are very responsive to a number of bipartisan legislative proposals that have been offered in Congress to fight Medicare fraud.

Now I'm going to read several legislative proposals that have been made by members of Congress and ask to what extent you think each proposal would help minimize Medicare fraud and identity theft of Medicare patients?



Nevada AARP members are more likely to vote for candidates who support these legislative proposals. Two-thirds of Nevada members are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the legislative proposals to minimize Medicare fraud and identity theft. Candidate support is strong regardless of party, ideology, region, age, sex, or income.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports these proposals or would it not affect your vote either way?



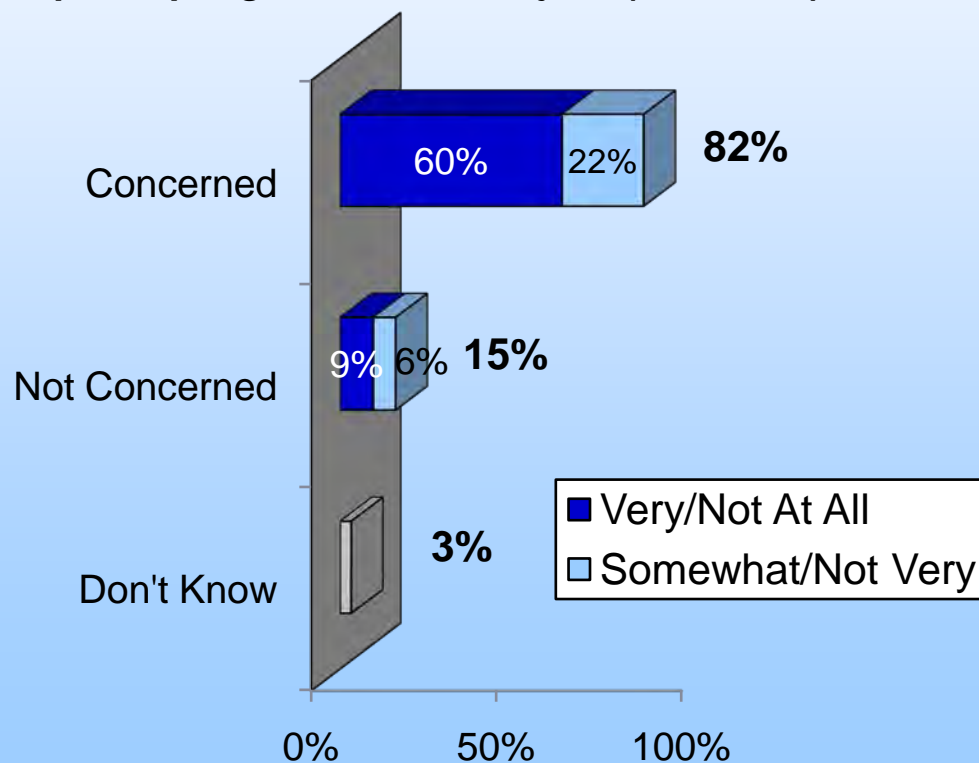
	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Las Vegas	65%	4%	22%
Reno	69%	5%	20%
Male 64 & under	62%	4%	28%
Male 65+	64%	6%	22%
Female 64 & under	65%	3%	22%
Female 65+	71%	5%	17%
Republican	60%	4%	26%
Ticket Splitter	67%	5%	23%
Democrat	69%	5%	17%
Liberal	68%	6%	19%
Moderate	68%	2%	23%
Conservative	64%	6%	22%
Under \$30K	67%	5%	21%
\$30K-\$49K	66%	6%	23%
\$50K-\$74K	68%	6%	18%
\$75K and Over	64%	1%	27%

Doc Fix

Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: Nevada Medicare enrollees express a high level of concern that their current doctors will stop accepting Medicare if the scheduled 23% cut goes into effect.

As you may know, in an effort to control the rate of growth in Medicare spending, current law requires that doctors who treat Medicare patients receive a reduction in reimbursement rates every year. Although Congress has taken action to block the cuts in the past, it has been unable to come up with a permanent solution to the problem. Currently, doctors are scheduled to receive a 23% cut in reimbursement rates starting December 1.

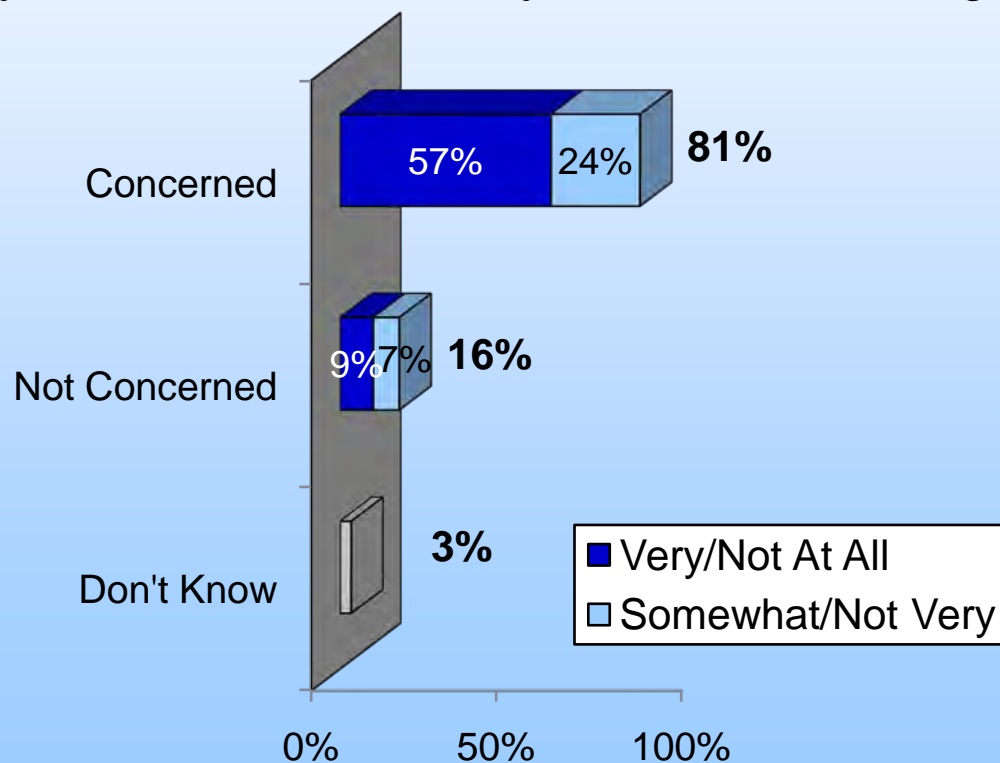
If the 23 percent payment cut takes effect, how concerned are you that your current doctors will stop accepting Medicare? Are you: (Base=226)



Concern about Medicare reimbursement rates: the non-Medicare Nevada population is highly concerned that their access to Medicare doctors will be limited in the future if Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem.

As you may know, in an effort to control the rate of growth in Medicare spending, current law requires that doctors who treat Medicare patients receive a reduction in reimbursement rates every year. Although Congress has taken action to block the cuts in the past, it has been unable to come up with a permanent solution to the problem. Currently, doctors are scheduled to receive a 23% cut in reimbursement rates starting December 1.

If Congress fails to fix the doctor reimbursement problem, how concerned are you that it will limit your access to doctors when you become Medicare eligible? (Base=267)

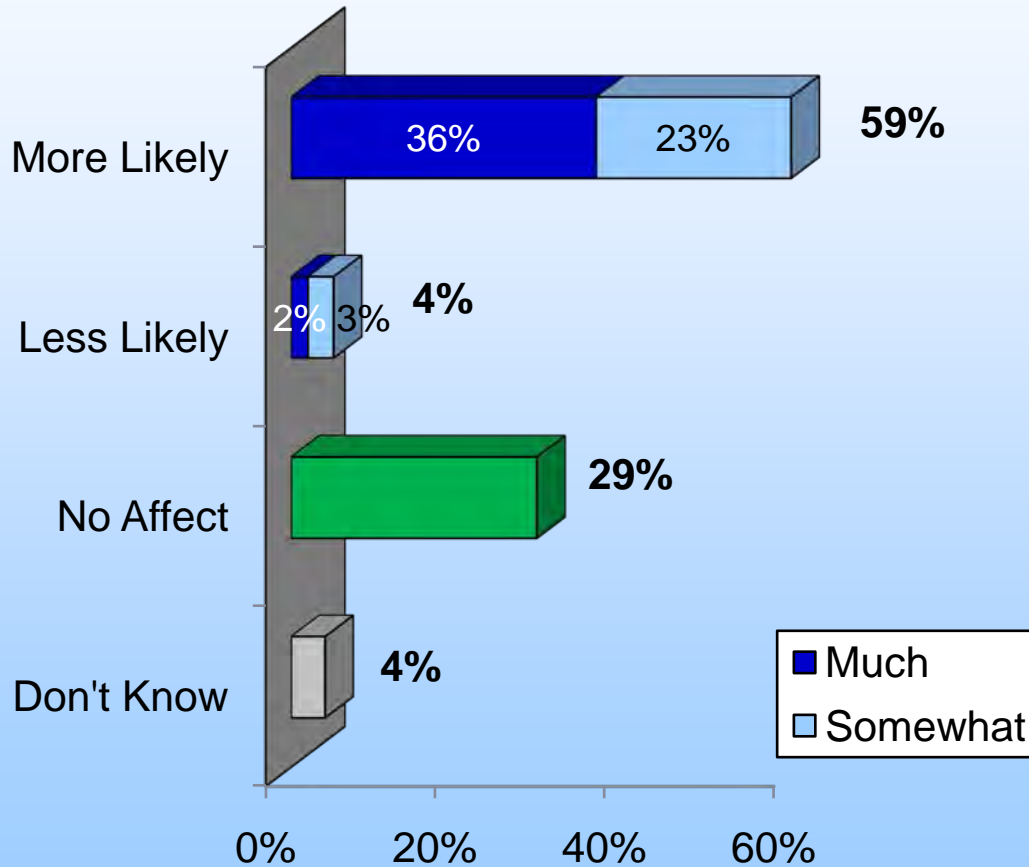


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Nevada AARP members are more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors. In all, 59% are more likely and 36% are much more likely to vote for such a candidate. Only 4% are less likely. A majority of Republicans (65%), Ticket-Splitters (60%) and Democrats (54%) are more likely.

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent future cuts in reimbursement rates to doctors, or would it not affect your vote either way?



	More Likely	Less Likely	No Affect
Las Vegas	57%	4%	30%
Reno	62%	5%	26%
Male 64 & under	57%	4%	32%
Male 65+	51%	4%	35%
Female 64 & under	59%	4%	30%
Female 65+	66%	5%	21%
Republican	65%	3%	23%
Ticket Splitter	60%	4%	30%
Democrat	54%	7%	33%
Liberal	59%	7%	27%
Moderate	54%	3%	34%
Conservative	65%	5%	24%

Summary and Conclusions

- This survey reveals a political climate born out of the economic crisis and uncertainty of recent years. Nevada AARP members are highly dissatisfied with the direction of the country and with the U.S. economy. Fewer than four in 10 are optimistic about the nation's economic prospects over the next year and roughly one in five thinks economic conditions will worsen during that time.
- In addition, members are very concerned about the deficit and about the future. Indeed, two-thirds (66%) of Nevada AARP members say they lack confidence that life for their children's generation will be better than it has been for them.
- Even so, most are relatively satisfied with their own economic circumstances and think that their own financial situation will remain stable in the near-term.
- Confidence in Social Security may underpin this view as 66% of all Nevada respondents are confident that they will receive full Social Security benefits throughout their retirement.
- Not surprisingly, then, most think Social Security is very important for future generations and would like to see candidates pledge their commitment to ensuring that Social Security remains a guaranteed life-long benefit. Republicans, Democrats and Ticket-Splitters all stress the importance of this commitment.
- In fact, on the important policy questions in this survey, there was surprisingly little difference based on partisan affiliation or voting behavior.

Summary and Conclusions

- This common outlook extends to the concept of reducing the Social Security benefits of future retirees in order to control the deficit. This approach is rejected by 67% of Nevada AARP members (including 63% of Republicans, 77% of Democrats and 58% of Independents) as an unfair burden to future retirees. Further, 59% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who favors this approach to deficit reduction. Once again, a majority of all partisan groups (51% of Republicans, 53% of Independents and 71% of Democrats) hold this view.
- Similarly, there is widespread concern about the continued threat of reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors. Most think that their ability to receive treatment from a doctor who accepts Medicare will be impacted if the issue is not addressed. As a result, 59% say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who promises to fix the system to prevent further cuts to reimbursement rates to doctors.
- Medicare fraud is perceived as a major problem and members think the most important reason to crack down on fraud is to keep Medicare strong. To that end, they are receptive to the bipartisan legislative proposals tested and would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports these efforts to minimize fraud and identity theft of Medicare patients.

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