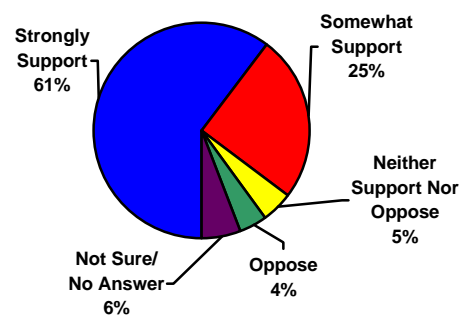

The vast majority of Virginia AARP members believe that all licensed health care professionals should be required to demonstrate their competence periodically.

Virginia members were informed that under Virginia law, health care professionals are not required to show they have up-to-date knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care as a condition of retaining their license. When asked if these professionals should be required to demonstrate their competence periodically, more than nine in ten members (91%) say they should be required to do so. Five percent indicate they are unsure, while few (2%) indicate they should not be required to demonstrate competence.

More than eight in ten AARP members say they support Virginia studying how to best establish guidelines for evaluating the continuing competence of health care professionals.

More than six in ten AARP members say they strongly support Virginia studying how to best establish guidelines for evaluating the continuing competence of health care professionals. Another one in four report they would somewhat support the study. Few members say they would oppose the study.

**Support to Study Guidelines for Evaluating
The Continuing Competence of Health Care
Professionals**
(weighted n=790)



A majority of Virginia AARP members report they would be more likely to vote for a state candidate who supported studying the best way to establish guidelines for evaluating the continuing competence of health care practitioners.

Seven in ten members (70%) report they would be more likely for a candidate who supports studying how to establish such guidelines. Three percent say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported the study, while about one in five (19%) indicate it would not make a difference in their voting decision.

**2007 Virginia Member Survey:
Health Care Quality**
Summary of Findings Prepared by Anita Stowell-Ritter



Methodology

This mail survey explores the opinions and experiences of AARP Virginia members on health care quality, long-term care, caregiving, pay-day lending, and transportation. AARP conducted the 2007 Virginia Member Survey between July and August 2007. Researchers at AARP randomly selected 2,000 AARP members in Virginia making sure to select members proportionate to each of three age groups: 50-59, 60-74, and 75+. Each selected member received a pre-notification postcard, the survey itself, a reminder postcard, and a second survey.

From the sample, 790 members returned the survey, making the response rate 40 percent. The sampling error for this survey sample is ± 3.5 percent. This means that in 95 out of 100 samples of this size, the results obtained in the sample would fall in a range of about 3.5 percentage points of what would have been obtained if every eligible AARP member household in Virginia had been surveyed. As of August, 2007, there are approximately 1,036,950 AARP members in Virginia. Researchers weighted the sample by age group to represent the AARP Virginia member population.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. We produce *AARP The Magazine*, published bimonthly; *AARP Bulletin*, our monthly newspaper; *AARP Segunda Juventud*, our bimonthly magazine in Spanish and English; *NRTA Live & Learn*, our quarterly newsletter for 50+ educators; and our website, www.aarp.org. AARP Foundation is our affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



**Copyright ©2007
AARP
Knowledge Management
601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
www.aarp.org/research
Reprinting with Permission**

**For more information about this survey please contact Anita Stowell-Ritter at:
202-434-6205 or e-mail aritter@aarp.org**