2017 AARP Alaska Health Care Survey:
Little Support for the Proposed Health Care Bill

Just one-third of likely voters in Alaska (33%) support the American Health Care Act, which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently being debated in the Senate (7% Dem, 68% Rep, 23% Ind). A sizeable number of likely voters (15%) say they do not know whether they support or oppose the bill (6% Dem, 18% Rep, 12% Ind).

A majority of likely voters also oppose the various policies included in the bill (see Figure below).
• There is also little appetite for reducing federal funding for Medicaid. Alaska likely voters (72%) believe funding for Medicaid should remain the same and not be cut (93% Dem, 57% Rep, 76% Ind).

• Most voters (83%) agree older people already pay three times more for health insurance than other people and increasing it to five times more would make insurance unaffordable (90% Dem, 74% Rep, 87% Ind).

• Health care is clearly a top priority for Alaska likely voters. When asked what Congress’ top priority should be, more than one-third (35%) say it should be health care. This is significantly more than the number who say it should be the economy/jobs or terrorism/national security.

Methodology:
AARP commissioned a telephone survey among 602 likely voters age 50+ in Alaska to gauge public opinion on the proposed health care bill and the various policies included in the plan. The sample utilized an age-targeted registered voter landline and cell phone list. This report highlights results from residents interviewed from June 4 through June 19, 2017. The data was weighted by age, gender, race/ethnicity and geographic region and is generalizable to registered voters in Alaska age 50+. The survey has a margin of sampling error of ±4 percent. The survey annotation will be made available at www.aarp.org/2017healthcaresurvey

AARP is the nation’s largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the world’s largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

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