

Biosimilars

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Polling Shows Strong Bipartisan Support for Immediate Action on Biosimilars to Reduce Health Care Costs

A clear majority of voters across party lines favor immediate action to lower drug prices by acting to increase use of biosimilars, according to a new HarrisX poll. The findings underscore the need for policymakers to pursue commonsense policy reform that will reduce patients' health costs and increase access to critical biosimilars therapies.

The poll found significant support for action to improve access to biosimilars and lower patients' costs, with 62 percent of all voters favoring immediate action, including 63 percent of all voters in swing states. On party lines, support is as high as 69 percent for Republicans and as low as 61 percent for Democrats.

The most popular action on biosimilars is eliminating out-of-pocket costs from Medicare. 73 percent of voters favor this approach, with 78 percent of Democrats in favor, 71 percent of Republicans and 70 percent Independents/unaffiliated voters in favor.

An [analysis](#) by Avalere Health found that reducing patients' out-of-pocket costs for biosimilars can save up to \$5.2 billion in taxpayer dollars over ten years, following increased use of these lower-cost therapies. In addition to saving federal tax dollars, seniors in Medicare can save as much as \$3.3 billion in out-of-pocket costs over the same period. Earlier this month, Congressmen Scott Peters (D-CA), Pete King (R-NY) and Anthony Brindisi (D-NY) [introduced](#) legislation that would waive patients out-of-pocket costs for biosimilars under Medicare Part B.

Additionally, the poll found bipartisan support for increasing doctor reimbursements for prescribing biosimilars with an increased ASP add-on payment. By increasing the amount doctors in Medicare Part B are reimbursed for administering these lower-cost therapies, the U.S. can reduce as much as \$8.2 billion in health costs over the next decade.

The poll found that 58 percent of all voters favor this policy, including 60 percent of Republicans, 59 percent of Democrats, and 53 percent of Independents/unaffiliated voters. Congressmen Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Greg Gianforte (R-MT) recently [introduced](#) legislation that would increase the ASP add-on payment rate for biosimilars in Medicare Part B.

The poll also found bipartisan support for policies to implement a shared savings model, whereby Medicare savings associated with prescribing a biosimilar would be shared with providers, saving an estimated \$3 billion in tax dollars over the next 10 years. 68 percent of all voters favor this policy,

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including 69 percent of Republicans, 69 percent of Democrats, and 65 percent of Independents/unaffiliated voters.

The survey was commissioned by the Biosimilars Forum and was conducted by HarrisX within the United States from October 11-15, 2019, among 2,480 registered voters nationwide inclusive of 967 registered voters in swing states (i.e., states decided by 8 points or less in the 2016 presidential election).

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