

## State Surveys Highlight Small Business Support for Healthcare Reform

Small Business Majority conducted surveys of small business owners in 17 states between December 2008 and August 2009. The results set forth below provide a useful insight into the way entrepreneurs generally view healthcare issues—as averages of statistically valid representations of the small business communities within each state.

### Key Findings

- Reform is urgently needed to fix the US economy, according to an average of 67% of respondents.
- An average of 86% of small businesses owners who don't offer health coverage to their employees say they can't afford to provide it. Those that do offer it are struggling to afford it, say an average of 72%.
- 83% of small business owners surveyed, on average, believe people should be able to buy insurance policies regardless of preexisting conditions.
- An average of 81% of small business owners support the concept of a marketplace or exchange from which the self-employed, small business owners and individuals can purchase health insurance. (This question was asked of all respondents in six states and half of all respondents in an additional five states.)
- Small businesses are willing to share the responsibility for making health insurance affordable along with insurers, healthcare providers, individuals and government, according to an average of 66% of respondents.

### Political Identification

- Respondents to the small business surveys represented a range of political points of view. 39% identified themselves as Republicans, 24% as Democrats and 27% as independents.

### Methodology

- Small Business Majority sponsored the 17 surveys in states representing nearly every region of the United States. Most were conducted in late May through August 2009; two were carried out in December 2008. The margin of error varied from 5.7% to 6.9% in each individual state based on sample size (with the margin of error for regional groupings of certain states ranging from 3.1% to 4.0%). The surveys were conducted by Lake Research Partners. While the results are generally consistent from state to state, the average results stated above do not reflect a valid national sample.
- States surveyed: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin.