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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** INTERESTED PARTIES  
**FROM:** WPA OPINION RESEARCH  
**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL HHS MANDATE  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 6, 2013

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WPA Opinion Research conducted a study of 801 likely voters nationwide regarding the mandate requiring both individual and employer based health plans to cover preventive care services, including various types of contraception and sterilization services. The survey was conducted November 18-20, 2013, and has a margin of error equal to  $\pm 3.5\%$  in 95 out of 100 cases.

***Support for the Mandate***

- Nearly three out of five (59%) likely voters oppose the mandate requiring the coverage of preventive care services for women which includes all FDA approved contraceptives, including drugs that can destroy a human embryo, and sterilization services without a direct cost to the patient.
  - Strongly Support: 28%
  - Somewhat Support: 7%
  - Hard Undecided or Refused: 6%
  - Somewhat Oppose: 8%
  - Strongly Oppose: 51%
- Strong majorities of both Evangelical Protestants (77%) and Catholics (61%) oppose the mandate.
- Independents nearly twice as likely to oppose the mandate (61%) as they are to support it (32%).
- Strong majorities of those who believe abortion should be outlawed except in the cases of rape or incest (77%), should be outlawed except in the case of the mother's health (87%), and should never be allowed (89%) oppose the mandate.
- Fifty-nine percent of married likely voters oppose the mandate.
- A majority of women ages 18 to 54 (54%) oppose the mandate.

***Job Approval of President Obama***

- Only 42% of likely voters approve of the job that Barack Obama has done as President, while 55% of likely voters disapprove.
  - Strongly Approve: 25%
  - Not-so-strongly Approve: 17%
  - Don't Know or Refused: 3%
  - Not-so-strongly Disapprove: 9%
  - Strongly Disapprove: 46%
- Fifty-seven percent of Independents disapprove of the job that the President has done.
- Majorities of women (54%) and key age groups 18 to 34 (54%) and 35 to 44 (53%) disapprove of the job that the President has done.
- Only the Northeast region of the United States has a higher approval rating (54%) than disapproval rating (43%).

### **Approval of the Affordable Care Act**

- A majority of likely voters (54%) disapprove of the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare.
  - Strongly Approve: 28%
  - Not-so-strongly Approve: 14%
  - Don't Know or Refused: 5%
  - Not-so-strongly Disapprove: 8%
  - Strongly Disapprove: 46%
- Fifty-six percent of Independents disapprove of the Affordable Care Act.
- Majorities of women ages 18 to 54 (52%) and likely voters ages 18 to 34 (51%), key voting blocs to President Obama's re-election, disapprove of his signature health reform bill.
- Majorities of Protestants (55%), Catholics (53%) and Evangelical Protestants (68%) disapprove of the Affordable Care Act.

### **Conclusion**

Outside of Democrats and African-Americans, most likely voters disapprove of both President Barack Obama and Obamacare. Simply put, the President has lost the very coalition that carried him to re-election: women, younger voters, Independents, and those at the lower end of the socio-economic spectrum and with lower annual incomes.

Public opposition to the contraception and abortion services mandate, like opposition to the law overall, is significant. Obamacare has seen its public support drop as the unadvertised consequences of the law have become clear. The mandated coverage of drugs that can destroy a human embryo, are just another instance of this.

### **Methodology**

Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research conducted a study of likely voters nationwide. Respondents were contacted by phone via a live telephone operator interview November 18-20, 2013. The sample for this survey was stratified based on geography, age, gender, ethnicity, and party. This methodology allows us to avoid post-survey "weighting" which can reduce the reliability of survey results.

The study has a sample size of n=801 likely voters. The margin of error is equal to  $\pm 3.5\%$  in 95 out of 100 cases.

### **About Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research**

Since 1998, WPA Opinion Research has been a leading provider of political polling for campaigns from Governor and U.S. Senate to Mayor and City Council in all 50 states and several foreign countries. In the 2011-2012 election cycle, even with Obama at the top of the ticket, more than 65% of WPA direct campaign clients won.

WPA has been nationally recognized for our efforts to provide cutting edge research to help our clients win. The American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) awarded a "Pollie" to WPA for our work in 2012. The award highlighted WPA's Adaptive Sampling and Predictive Analytics methodologies which allowed us to buck national GOP polling trends and deliver industry-leading results.

In rankings released by Nate Silver's fivethirtyeight.com of 2008 election data, Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research was statistically tied as the most accurate partisan pollster and we find that WPA was significantly more accurate than other partisan pollsters.