

KEY FINDINGS: HEALTH CARE ACCESS POLL April 2008

Summary

Across all demographics – including age, political party, geographic region, and gender – a new statewide poll shows that people support patients’ right to access to health care. Survey participants overwhelmingly believe a patient’s right to health care should have greater priority than a health care provider’s personal, moral or religious beliefs. People polled oppose allowing a pharmacist to refuse to fill prescriptions to which they are morally or religiously opposed including a prescription for emergency contraception which is regarded as basic health care for women.

The poll of 577 Washingtonians was conducted by phone April 17-23, 2008 by Lake Research Partners for Planned Parenthood Public Policy Network of Washington. The margin of error for the total survey is +/- 4.1%.

Key findings

- ♦ 74% of people polled say that a patient’s rights to health care should have greater priority than the health care providers’ personal, moral or religious beliefs.
- ♦ 70% of survey participants oppose allowing a pharmacist to refuse to fill prescriptions to which they are personally, morally or religiously opposed.
- ♦ 76% of those polled agree that birth control and contraceptives, including emergency contraception, are basic health care for women and a pharmacist should not be denying access to appropriate medications based on personal, moral or religious beliefs.
- ♦ 74% of survey participants support WA Board of Pharmacy rules ensuring that patients have their prescriptions filled without discrimination or delay.

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Planned Parenthood Public Policy Network of Washington protects and advances reproductive health and rights in Washington on behalf of the five Planned Parenthood affiliates in Washington. Collectively, the affiliates provide clinical and education services at 39 Planned Parenthood clinics in 18 counties around the state.