



# NATIONAL GRANGE

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*American Values. Hometown Roots.*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Survey: Rural Voters Experience Unique Health Care Challenges in Their Communities**

*Rural Voters Concerned Elected Officials Have Lost Touch With Public Health Needs, Urge For Solutions to Address Care Barriers*

WASHINGTON – The National Grange released the results of a national survey of over 1,000 rural voters that found rural communities face unique barriers to health care. Looking at mental health specifically, over half of these voters identified the cost and accessibility of treatment as their biggest obstacles to seeking care. With the pandemic exacerbating mental health challenges among our nation’s most vulnerable populations, three-in-four rural voters recognize the need for health care reforms to protect access to mental health services, medicines, and treatments now more than ever before.

Along with these unique rural community health challenges, the Morning Consult poll also found that there is robust agreement (87%) among rural voters that elected officials have lost touch with what the public needs from their health care. And with two-thirds of these voters indicating they will vote this November, policymakers should take note. Rural voters support the following proposed policy solutions:

- Require health insurance companies to be more transparent about what medicines are covered and what patients will pay out-of-pocket for prescription medicines (86%).
- Make sure lower-income families, communities of color, and patients with chronic conditions not only have access to health care, but they can also afford to use it (85%).
- Provide educational programs and materials for rural youth and residents to access resources and services available that address rural mental health challenges (84%).
- Require health insurers and PBMs to pass the rebates or discounts they receive from drug companies on medicines to patients at the pharmacy counter (82%).
- Cap cost-sharing, such as deductibles and coinsurance that patients must pay out-of-pocket to get their medicines (81%).

“Rural Americans deserve a health care system that alleviates the unique demographic and socioeconomic challenges they face,” said The Grange President Betsy Huber. “This survey makes it clear that our elected officials need to do more, and we call on Congress to provide real solutions, not

squabble over impractical policies that do nothing to address the core issues or improve health outcomes.”

For more information and to see the full survey results, please visit The Grange’s website:

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/>

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### **About the Survey**

Morning Consult conducted a national survey of 1004 rural registered voters, who self-report living in communities with populations of 25,000 or less, via online interview between June 24-June 25, 2022. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

### **About National Grange**

The National Grange is a nonprofit organization that engages in some commercial activities to support the civic, community and member service activities conducted by about 1,500 local, county and state Grange chapters across the nation.