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New Poll: Virginians Support Medicaid Work Requirement By Three to One Margin

2/8/2018 -- The Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy today released a poll conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategies showing strong support in all areas of the state for a work requirement for able-bodied Medicaid recipients. The poll may be viewed by [clicking here](#).

By a 68 to 22 percent margin, Virginia voters support a work requirement for those receiving Medicaid, the healthcare program for the poor. The poll was released at a conference on Medicaid hosted by the Jefferson Institute in which advocates and opponents of expanding this program discussed the issue.

"This result clearly shows that an overwhelming majority of Virginia voters want those on this federal welfare program to work or be looking for work in order to be enrolled in Medicaid," said Michael Thompson, President of the Thomas Jefferson Institute.

The General Assembly is currently considering the expansion of Medicaid to those whose income is up to 138% of poverty. The work requirement proposal under consideration would require those who on Medicaid to work or be actively looking for work. The requirement excludes seniors, the disabled and pregnant women.

By a margin of 68% to 22%, Virginia's voters support a work requirement. The largest margin of support is in the Southwestern part of the state where the support was 81% to 10% opposed. "It is interesting that the poorest region of our state is where the work requirement enjoys the highest level of support," said Thompson.

The smallest margin of support was in Northern Virginia where voters support a work requirement by a margin of 61% to 28%. "Even in the bluest part of Virginia, voters understand that Medicaid should demand a work requirement in order to be part of the program. A solid work requirement makes sense and should be part of the current Medicaid program regardless of whether it is expanded or not," said Thompson.

Democrats supported a work requirement by a margin of 51% to 34%, Republicans by a margin of 93% to 4%, and Independents support it by a margin of 66% to 25%.

Conducted on behalf of the Thomas Jefferson institute, the Mason-Dixon poll surveyed 625 registered Virginia voters by telephone. This poll was conducted January 23 through January 25, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Complete details of the poll may be found by [clicking here](#).