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## Physician Survey: Health Reforms Potential Impact on Physician Supply and Quality of Medical Care

Mar. – Apr. 2010

### Key Findings

#### Physician Support of Health Reform in General

- **62.7%** of physicians feel that health reform is needed but should be implemented in a more targeted, gradual way, as opposed to the sweeping overhaul that is in legislation.
- **28.7%** of physicians are in favor of a public option.
- **3.6%** of physicians prefer the "status quo" and feel that the U.S. health care system is best "as is."

#### Health Reform and Primary Care Physicians

- **46.3%** of primary care physicians (family medicine and internal medicine) feel that the passing of health reform will either force them out of medicine or make them want to leave medicine.

#### Health Reform, Public Option, and Practice Revenue/Physician Income

- **41%** of physicians feel that income and practice revenue will "decline or worsen dramatically" with a public option.
- **30%** feel income will "decline or worsen somewhat" with a public option.
- **9%** feel income will "improve somewhat" with a public option, and **0.8%** feel income will "improve dramatically" with a public option.

#### Health Reform, Public Option, and Physician Supply

- **72%** of physicians feel that a public option would have a negative impact on physician supply, with **45%** feeling it will "decline or worsen dramatically" and **27%** predicting it will "decline or worsen somewhat."
- **24%** of physicians think they will try to retire early if a public option is implemented.
- **21%** of physicians would try to leave medicine if a public option is implemented, even if not near retirement age at the time.

#### Health Reform and Recommending Medicine to Others as a Career

- **36%** of physicians would not recommend medicine as a career, regardless of health reform.
- **27%** would recommend medicine as a career but not if health reform passes.
- **25%** of physicians would recommend medicine as a career regardless of health reform.
- **12%** would not recommend medicine as a career now but feel that they would recommend it as a career if health reform passes

*Source: "Physician Survey: Health Reform's Impact on Physician Supply and Quality of Medical Care," The Medicus Firm, [www.TheMedicusFirm.com](http://www.TheMedicusFirm.com)*

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