

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Interested Parties**

**FROM: Hart Research Associates**

**DATE: February 2, 2011**

**RE: Key Findings From Survey on Issues Related To  
Smith And Pence Bills**

*From November 5 to 8, 2010, Hart Research Associates conducted a nationwide telephone poll among 802 registered voters. The survey's margin of error is  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points. Following is a summary of the survey's key findings.*

### Key Findings

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The recent introduction of Congressman Smith's bill that would add significant new restrictions to women's access to abortion services provides an important opportunity to underscore voters' concerns about a range of policies that some Republican leaders in Congress have said they will introduce this session.

Our national post-election poll highlights the following findings:

- **74% of voters oppose a key provision of the Smith Bill**, namely making women who choose to purchase private health insurance with their own money pay higher taxes if that includes abortion coverage.

Opposition to this legislative approach includes 71% of voters who report supporting the Republican candidate for Congress in November and 73% of voters who identify themselves as independents.

- **71% of voters oppose the practical effect of the Pence Bill**, which would cut federal funding for preventive health services at Planned Parenthood health centers around the country.

Objections to this effort are shared by 60% of voters who report supporting the Republican candidate for Congress in November and 70% of voters who identify themselves as independents.

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In fact, voters' objections to cutting funding for Planned Parenthood are strongly grounded. **Planned Parenthood stands out with a strong majority (59%) of voters as being "in step" with their views on reproductive health issues such as sex education, birth control, and abortion.** With just one in four (26%) describing Planned Parenthood's views as "out of step," Planned Parenthood enjoys a 33-point net-positive rating on these issues.

By contrast, in the aftermath of the midterm election, **a majority of voters admitted that they do not know where Speaker Boehner stands on reproductive health issues such as sex education, birth control, and abortion.** While just 15% of voters describe him as "in step" and 25% say he is "out of step," 56% of voters say they simply don't know how to characterize his position on these issues. **But among those voters who couldn't characterize Boehner's position on these issues just two months ago, there is strong evidence that his actions so far have harmed—not improved—perceptions of him.** Strong majorities of voters who couldn't characterize Boehner's position then expressed concern about issue positions that he has since taken or signaled that he will take in the coming weeks. Specifically the following:

- 73% oppose a key provision of the Smith Bill that would make women pay higher taxes for choosing to purchase private health insurance that covers abortion.
- 72% oppose the Pence Bill that would cut federal funding for Planned Parenthood.