

To: *Interested Parties*
From: *Hart Research*
Date: *October 2, 2023*
Re: *Union Households from Northeast/Midwest Industrial States Express Serious Concerns about Legislation that will Weaken their Healthcare Coverage and Prescription Drug Benefits*

This memo presents key findings from an in-depth online survey among union households that Hart Research Associates conducted on behalf of the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD) regarding union healthcare benefits. The survey was conducted from August 28 to September 6, 2023, among a representative national cross-section of 1,146 current and retired union households who receive all or part of their healthcare coverage through a union plan, including 581 union households living in Northeast/Midwest industrial states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin). This memo presents key findings from union households in this region, which mirror the trends we observe nationally among union households.

Key Findings:

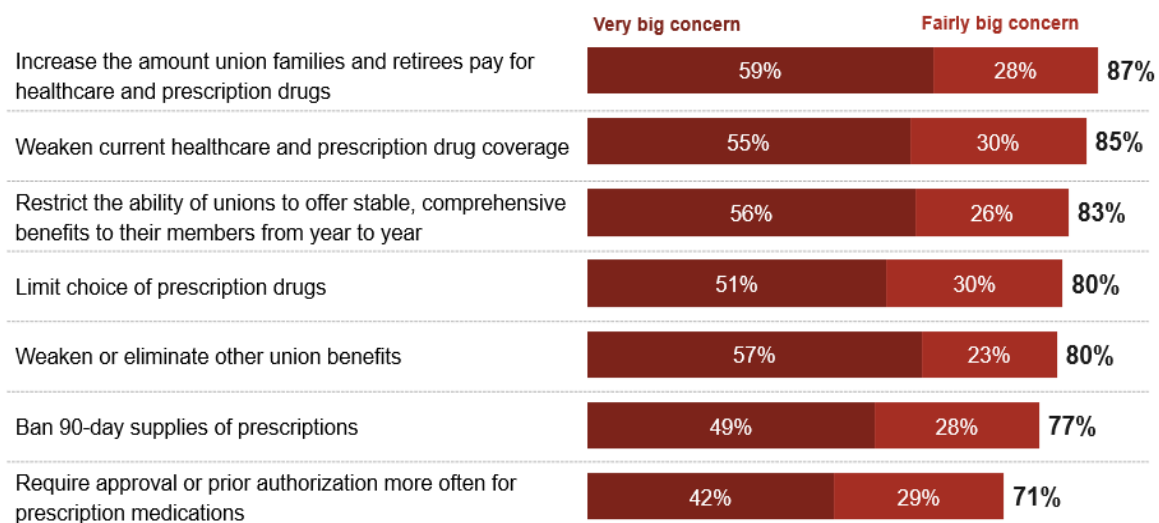
- 1. Union households from this area highly value the healthcare and prescription drug coverage they receive through their union and, by a very significant margin, believe their coverage is better than the coverage others have through non-union affiliated plans.**
 - Virtually all union households in the Northeast/Midwest industrial region who get coverage through a union plan believe it's important that unions have the ability to provide stable, comprehensive health insurance and prescription drug coverage to their members and retirees: 95% say it is very or fairly important (76% very important), and no one says it is not important.
 - When asked broadly about their healthcare coverage, union households respond with a 53-point margin (59% better to 5% worse), indicating that they believe their healthcare coverage is better than the coverage others receive from non-union plans. The same trend is observed when asked about specific aspects of their healthcare coverage, including the stability of coverage and cost from year to year (58% better, 7% worse), the amount they pay for healthcare (63% better, 10% worse), co-pays and out-of-pocket costs (59%

better, 11% worse), the amount they pay for prescription drugs (59% better, 9% worse), and the ability to go to a provider of their choice (61% better, 4% worse).

2. The prospect of Congress enacting policies that will weaken the ability of unions to deliver high-quality, low-cost prescription drug benefits raises very high levels of concern among union households in the Northeast/Midwest industrial region. The most concerning consequence of these proposals, if enacted, is that they will increase the amount union families and retirees pay for healthcare and prescription drugs, including increasing premiums (88% big concern), co-pays and out-of-pocket costs on prescriptions (88% big concern), and deductibles (83% big concern).

- Union households in the Northeast/Midwest industrial region find the argument that increased prescription drug costs will lead to lower wages, reduced take-home pay, and increased stress on family budgets as the most compelling reason to oppose these proposals.
- In addition to increasing costs, these union households are concerned at high rates that these policies will restrict the ability of unions to provide stable, comprehensive benefits (83% big concern), will weaken current coverage (85% big concern), will ban 90-day supplies of prescription drugs (77% big concern), and will limit their choice of prescription drugs (80% big concern).

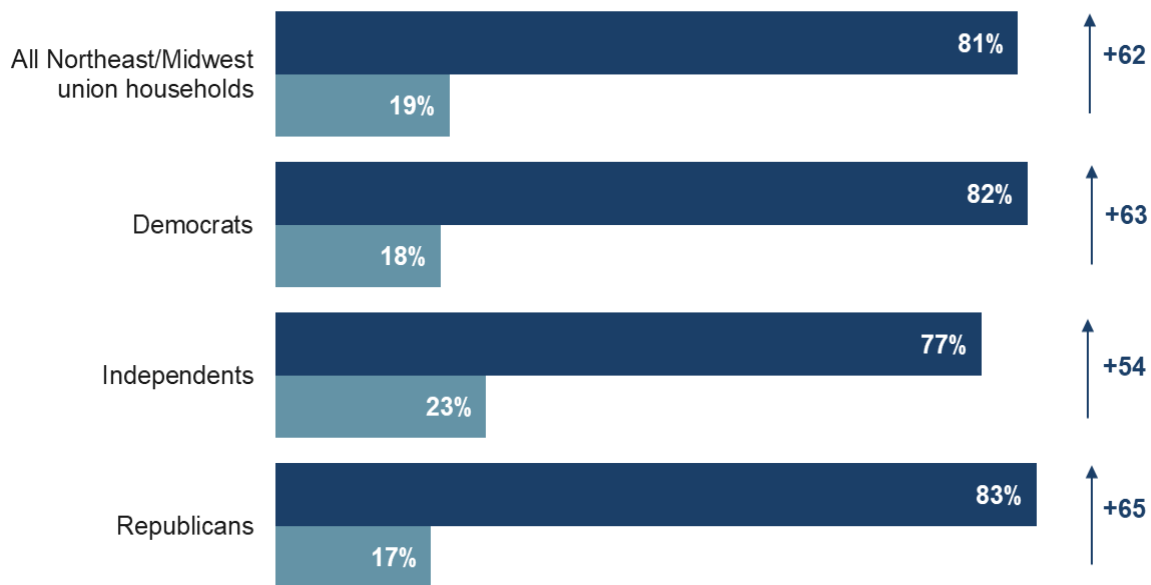
Northeast/Midwest Industrial Union Household Members Express Very High Levels of Concern About Proposals That Will:



3. **Northeast/Midwest industrial union households do not believe Congress and the president’s work is done when it comes to reining in pharma’s excessive drug price increases.** Greater than four in five (81%) believe there is still more work to be done by Congress and the president (51% feel strongly) compared to only 19% who believe they have taken the steps needed. The belief that there is still work to do is consistently high across the political spectrum.

Union Households in Northeast/Midwest Industrial Region Were Asked Which Statement They Agree with More:

- **STATEMENT A:** There is still more to do, and Congress and the president need to take further action to rein in the high prices pharmaceutical companies charge for prescription drugs.
- **STATEMENT B:** Congress and the president have already taken the steps needed to lower prescription drug prices and stop excessive drug price increases by pharmaceutical companies.



- Three in four of these regional union households (82%) believe the cost of prescription drugs is a big problem and seven in ten (74%) believe the amount drug companies charge for prescription drugs is unreasonable.
- Importantly, nearly nine in ten of these union households (88%) want Congress and the president to place a high priority on taking further action to lower the price of prescription drugs and stop drug companies’ excessive price increases. Democrats (89% high priority), Independents (84% high priority), and

Republicans (83% high priority) alike, want action on lowering prescription drug prices and stopping drug companies' excessive price hikes to be a high priority.

- 4. However, union households from Northeast/Midwest industrial states oppose proposals that will impact currently held union benefits, including their prescription drug benefits.** Over seven in ten of these union households (71%) oppose the proposals Congress is considering that will affect existing union contracts. Majorities of Democrats (73% oppose), Independents (65%), and Republicans (73%) oppose these proposals at high rates.
- After learning more about the potential consequences of these policies on their healthcare and prescription drug coverage, opposition remains very high among these union households overall (74% oppose). Furthermore, opposition increased among Republicans (79%) and Independents (71%) while staying strong among Democrats (72%).