

November 14, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Arizona Physicians Back Health Care Reform,
But Don't Agree on How**
Profession Splits Along Political Lines

PHOENIX, AZ — Eighty-eight percent of Arizona physicians are in favor of significant health care system changes, but they don't agree on what those changes should be.

An SLHI survey of more than 1,000 Arizona physicians reveals a clear call for either major changes or a complete restructuring of the system, but respondents were evenly spread across the range of options presented for undertaking such changes.

“Arizona physicians agree we need to change the system, but their opinions on how to do it are as fractured as the general population,” said Jill Rissi, SLHI’s Associate Director of Research and Policy. “Political party trumps profession.”

Physicians spread their support across options of expanding public programs, an employer mandate, “Medicare for all” and an individual coverage mandate. Democrat physicians were more supportive of expanding existing public health insurance programs (62.8%) or a “Medicare for all” approach (60.1%); Republican physicians were more aligned with establishing an individual coverage mandate (51.4%) or an employer mandate (45.9%).

On the issue of social equity, physicians were divided on everyone being entitled to the same level of health care (43%) or favoring an approach that gives consumers the option to purchase a better quality of care if they can afford it (47%). Women physicians were more likely to favor social equity (57%) compared to men (45%); physicians whose incomes were greater than \$300,000 annually were more likely to favor allowing people with money to purchase something better (64%).

The complete report – with verbatim comments, in-depth analysis and additional physician opinions on a range of issues -- is available on the web at http://www.slhi.org/publications/studies_research/pdfs/PhysSurveyPub.pdf.

About SLHI

Established in 1995, St. Luke's Health Initiatives (SLHI) is a Phoenix-based public foundation focused on Arizona health policy and strength-based community development. For additional information, please visit www.slhi.org.

Contact

Jon Ford, Associate Director, Communications

Phone: 602-385-6508

Email: jon.ford@slhi.org