

To: Interested Parties
From: National Women’s Law Center
Re: Care Polling from NWLC's Quarterly Benchmark Analysis
Date: September 25, 2026

Over the last year, the National Women’s Law Center has partnered with YouGov on a series of surveys administered quarterly on U.S. adults. Results from August 2025, January 2026, April 2026, and August 2026 are included and show that support for affordable child care, long-term care, and health care are high, with the vast majority of adults supporting these policies. The number of adults expressing concern about the cost of care services and health care has grown over the course of the four waves, demonstrating the need for comprehensive solutions that address the affordability of high-quality child care, long-term care, and health care.

Care Issue Support Overall (August 2025-August 2026)

	August 2025	January 2026	April 2026	August 2026
% of adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care	*	76%	76%	81%
% of adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable long-term care for older adults and disabled people	*	85%	85%	89%
% of adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable health care	85%	84%	85%	87%

** In August 2025, 85% of adults support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.*

Key Takeaways (August 2025-August 2026)

- **Child Care:** Over 3 in 4 adults support guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care, and over 3 in 5 adults think their elected representative should be doing more on the issue.
- **Aging and Disability Care:** Over 5 in 6 adults support guaranteeing access to affordable long-term care for older adults and disabled people, and around 7 in 10 adults think their elected representative should be doing more on the issue.
- **Health Care:** Over 5 in 6 adults support guaranteeing access to affordable health care and around 7 in 10 adults think their elected representative should be doing more to guarantee access to affordable health care.

CHILD CARE

- Initially, in the August 2025 survey, child care and long-term care were grouped together into one question gauging attitudes for both. After finding high levels of support for the combined question, child care and long-term care were separated into different polling questions.

- Subsequent polling across three different waves shows that over 3 in 4 adults support guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care. Support is even higher among parents of children under the age of 18 and mothers with children under the age of 18, growing over subsequent polling waves.
- There has been a steady rise in concern about the cost of care services (including child care) over the past 12 months, with over half of adults sharing these concerns.
- Around half of adults consistently say that the country is on the wrong track when it comes to child care.
- Over 3 in 5 adults think their elected representative should be doing more on the issue, including over 3 in 4 adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care.

	August 2025	January 2026	April 2026	August 2026
% of adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care:	*	76%	76%	81%
1. support among parents with children under 18		1. 79%	1. 82%	1. 86%
2. support among mothers with children under 18		2. 83%	2. 84%	2. 87%
% of adults who say the country is on the wrong track on affordable childcare	45%	47%	47%	51%
% of adults who were worried about the cost of care services like child care, care for older people, and disabled people	51%	53%	54%	57%
% of adults who think their elected representatives should be doing more on guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care	**	60%	61%	63%
1. % of adults who support the issue that think their elected officials should be doing more on the issue		1. 75%	1. 74%	1. 74%

**In August 2025, 85% of adults support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.*

1. 86% of parents with children under 18 support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.
2. 86% of mothers with children under 18 support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.

***In August 2025, 67% of adults feel that their elected representatives should be doing more for “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.*

1. Among adults that support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”, 76% of adults feel as if their elected representative should be doing more on the issue.

CARE FOR AGING AND DISABLED FAMILY MEMBERS

- Over 5 in 6 adults support guaranteeing access to affordable long-term care for older adults and disabled people.
 - This support is even more elevated among caregivers, adults over 55, and disabled adults.
- There has been a steady rise in concern for the cost of care services (including care for older adults and disabled people), with over half of adults sharing these concerns.
- Around 7 in 10 adults think their elected representatives should be doing more on the issue, including around 4 in 5 adults who are supportive of the issue.

	August 2025	January 2026	April 2026	August 2026
% of adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable long-term care for older adults and disabled people	*	85%	85%	89%
1. % support among caregivers		1. 86%	1. 88%	1. 89%
2. % support among adults over 55		2. 91%	2. 90%	2. 94%
3. % support among disabled adults		3. 90%	3. 91%	3. 95%
% of adults who say the country is on the wrong track on affordable long-term care for older adults and disabled people	49%	51%	51%	54%
% of adults who say they are worried about the cost of care services, such as child care, care for older people, and care for people with disabilities	51%	53%	54%	57%
% of adults who think their elected representative should be doing more on guaranteeing access to long-term care for older adults and disabled people	**	71%	69%	72%
1. % of adults who support the issue that think their elected representative should be doing more on the issue		1. 80%	1. 77%	1. 79%

**In August 2025, 85% of adults support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.*

1. 87% of caregivers support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.
2. 88% of adults over 55 support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.
3. 90% of disabled adults support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.

***In August 2025, 67% of adults feel that their elected representatives should be doing more for “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”.*

1. Among adults that support “guaranteeing access to affordable, high-quality child care and long-term care for older adults and disabled people”, 76% of adults feel as if their elected representative should be doing more on the issue.

HEALTH CARE

- Consistently across all four waves of polling administered, over 5 in 6 adults support guaranteeing access to affordable health care. Support is further heightened among women, Black women, and Latinas.
 - The percentage of support among women peaked in the August 2026 survey, with 9 in 10 women supporting guaranteeing access to affordable health care, including 9 in 10 Black women.
- Over half of adults say the country is on the wrong track on access to health care across the four waves of polling.
- When it comes to the cost of health care, even more adults say that the country is on the wrong track. The percentage rose across the three waves of polling that this question was administered, peaking at close to 7 in 10 adults in the most recent August 2026 survey.
- Around 7 in 10 adults think their elected representative should be doing more to guarantee access to affordable health care, including 4 in 5 adults who are supportive of the issue.

	August 2025	January 2026	April 2026	August 2026
% of adults who support guaranteeing access to affordable health care	85%	84%	85%	87%
1. % support among women	1. 86%	1. 86%	1. 87%	1. 90%
2. % support among Black women	2. 94%	2. 80%	2. 85%	2. 90%
3. % support among Latinas	3. 84%	3. 81%	3. 90%	3. 81%
% of adults who say the country is on the wrong track on access to health care	53%	56%	54%	56%
% of adults who say the country is on the wrong track on the cost of health care	*	66%	64%	69%
% of adults who say they are worried about the cost of health care	68%	69%	70%	70%
% of adults that think their elected representative should be doing more on guaranteeing access to affordable health care	68%	72%	72%	74%
1. % of adults who support the issue that think their elected representative should be doing more on the issue	1. 79%	1. 81%	1. 80%	1. 81%

*This question was not included in the August 2025 survey.

NWLC partnered with YouGov to commission a series of quarterly surveys via online panel. The August 2025 and April 2026 surveys reached 1,500 adult respondents nationally, the January 2026 survey reached 1,525 adult respondents nationally, and the August 2026 survey reached 1,540 adult respondents nationally. The surveys were conducted in August 2025 (conducted from August 22 to August 29, 2025), January 2026 (conducted from January 9 to January 21, 2026), April 2026 (conducted from April 17 to April 23, 2026), and August 2026 (conducted from August 12 to August 18, 2026). The data has been weighted to approximate target samples of U.S. adults based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, presidential vote, party ID, and region. The margins of error (MOEs) are +/-3.1% for the

August 2025 sample, +/-3% for the January and August 2026 samples, and +/-3.2% for the April 2026 sample. The MOEs are larger for subgroups across the four samples. For more details on sampling procedures and margins of error for these surveys, visit <https://today.yougov.com/about/panel-methodology>.