

 DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

CONCERN OVER THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC REMAINS HIGH;

Voters Support Continued
Economic Relief

Ilya Sheyman *Coronavirus Response Hub*
Ethan Winter *Analyst, Data for Progress*
Kelsey Wright *Intern, Data for Progress*

June 2020

On May 15, the United States House of Representatives passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. The \$3 trillion dollar relief package included another round of \$1200 cash payments, aid to states and cities, Native American tribes, protection for essential workers, and other measures. It has since sat in the Senate with the Republican Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, refusing to bring the bill to the vote.

House Democrats intended the HEROES Act to be a second relief bill that would have built upon and augmented the other major relief bill, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The law passed in March, 2020 included, among other components, two major provisions for individuals and households impacted by the economic crisis, a one time, means tested cash payments of \$1200 and the addition of \$600 per week to unemployment benefits. Both these measures have been successful in blunting the force of the economic crisis and research has been published that shows has capped the rise of poverty in the United States.

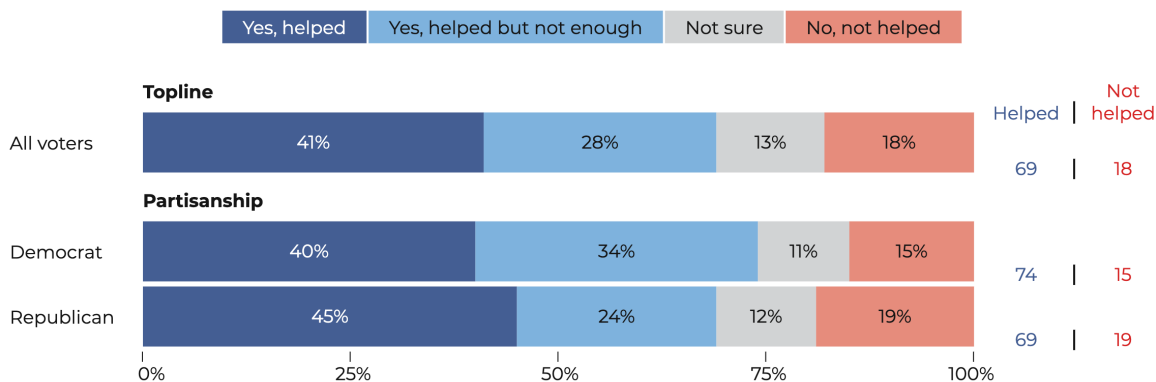
As part of a June survey, Data for Progress sought to test support for both the HEROES and CARES Act, other relief proposals, as well as to measure voters' ongoing concern about the current twin economic and public health crises.

First, we asked voters whether or not they or anyone in their households had been helped by the CARES Act and provided them with four responses: "yes helped," "yes, helped but not enough," "not sure," and "no, not helped."

We found that, overall, 69 percent of voters reported that they'd been helped by the CARES Act. Twenty-eight percent, meanwhile, said that while they'd been helped, this aid was insufficient. Eighteen percent said they hadn't been helped while the remaining 13 percent weren't sure. Voters who self-identify as Democrats and Republicans were helped by the CARES Act at roughly proportional rates. What's clear is that the CARES Act has managed to lend support to a majority of Americans but that this bill still left millions in the cold, without badly needed relief.

Most Households Directly Helped By CARES Act

Were you or anyone in your household directly helped by the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act" or CARES Act passed in March?



Data for Progress

DATA FOR PROGRESS

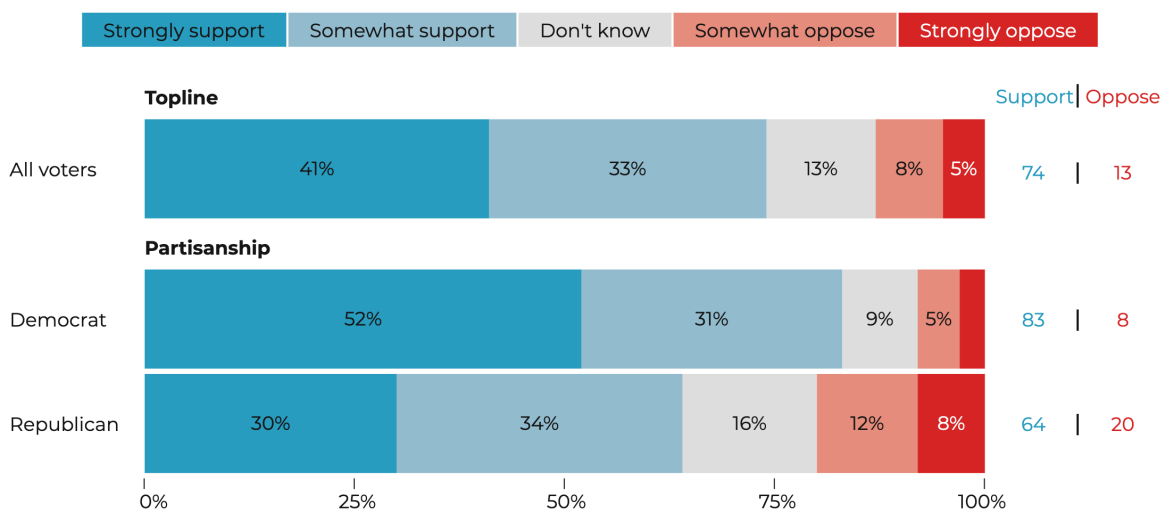
Next, we asked voters if they support or oppose the CARES Act, based on what they've heard. We found overwhelming support for this law. Among all voters, the CARES Act enjoys a 61-percentage-point margin of support (74 percent support, 14 percent oppose). This support is also bipartisan. Democrats back the law by a 75-point margin while Republicans do so by a 44-point margin.

While voters have been helped by and support the CARES Act, concern among voters about the

state of the economy and public health remains high. This finding is all the more important as one notes that coronavirus cases in the United States are now hitting record numbers. Among all voters, 75 percent said they were either very or somewhat concerned that a second wave of the virus could lead to another round of shutdowns in the fall. In addition, 74 percent of voters said they were either very or somewhat concerned that people will be unable to cover essential costs like rent, utilities, food and medicine.

Voters Continue To Support the CARES Act

Based on what you have heard, do you support the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security" or CARES Act?

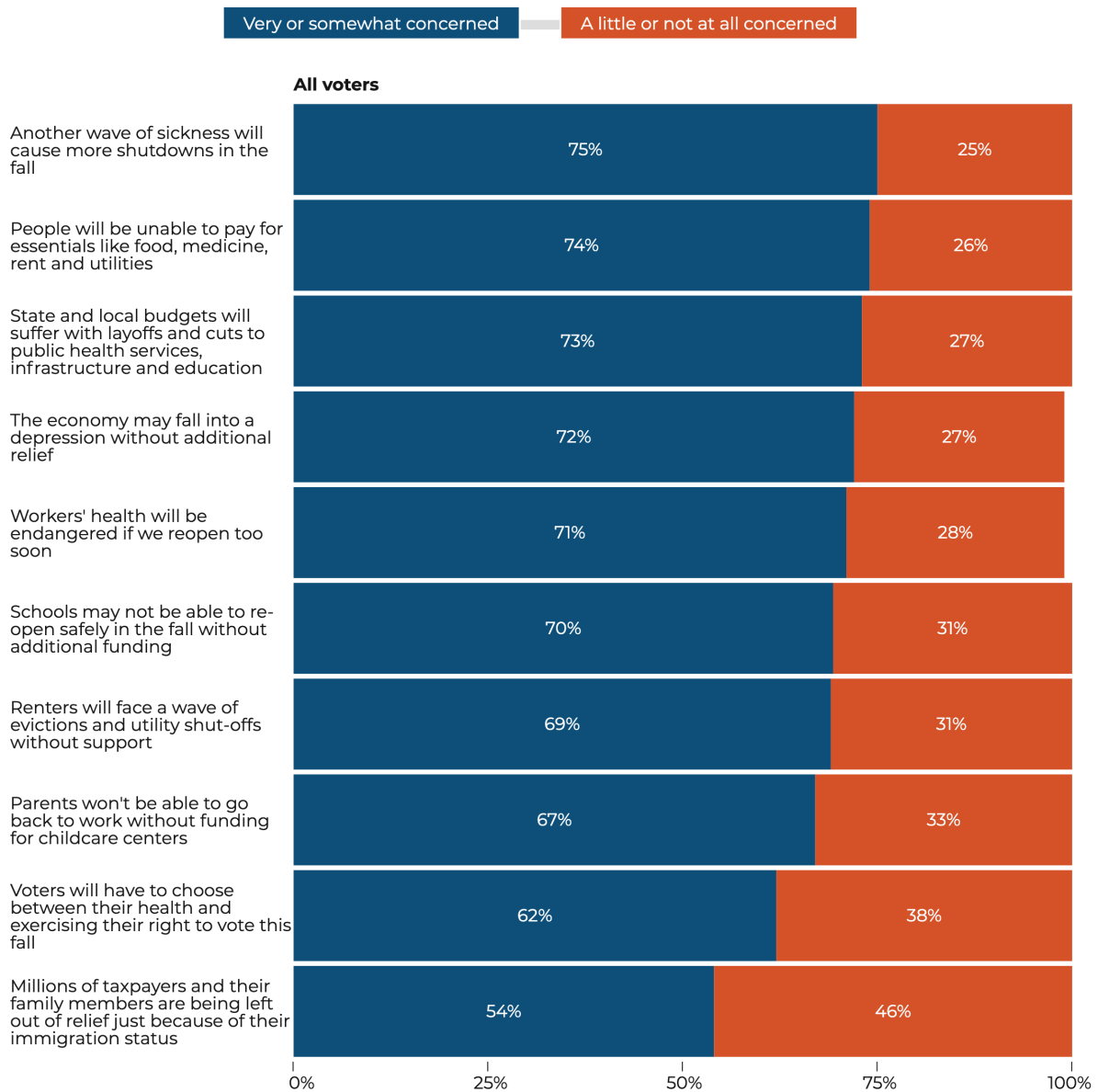


Data for Progress

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Majorities Of Voters Have Substantial Concerns About The Economy and Public Health

How concerned are you about the following?

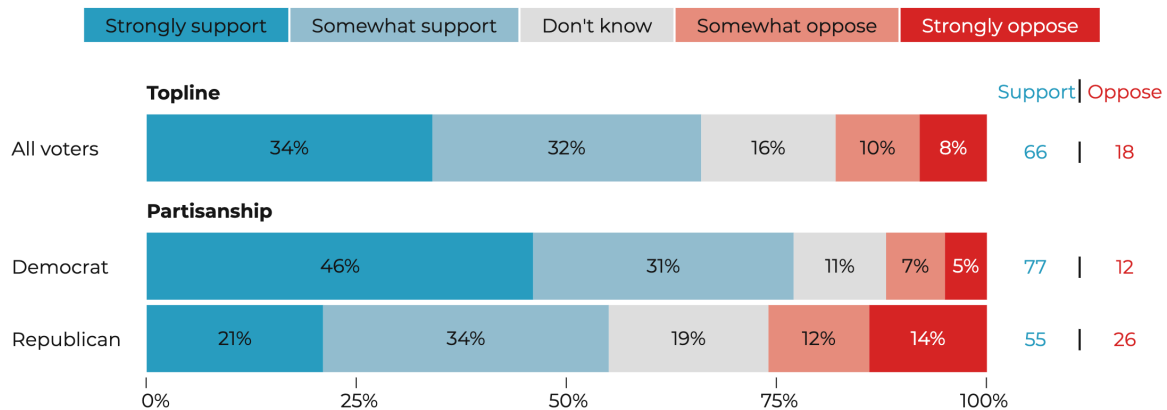


Data for Progress

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

Voters Strongly Support the HEROES Act

The "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or HEROES Act is a \$3 trillion dollar bill which includes increasing aid for state, local and tribal governments to fund education and public services, extending pandemic unemployment insurance benefits through January 2021, protections for essential workers, food assistance and provides more direct payments to Americans. Do you support or oppose the HEROES Act?



Data for Progress

DATA FOR PROGRESS

We then asked voters whether they supported or opposed the HEROES Act, after providing a brief explanatory note about the bill. We found that, among all voters, the \$3 trillion package enjoys a 48-point margin of support (66 percent support, 18 percent oppose). Support for the bill is also bipartisan with Democrats supporting it by a 65-point margin and Republicans doing so by a 29-point margin.

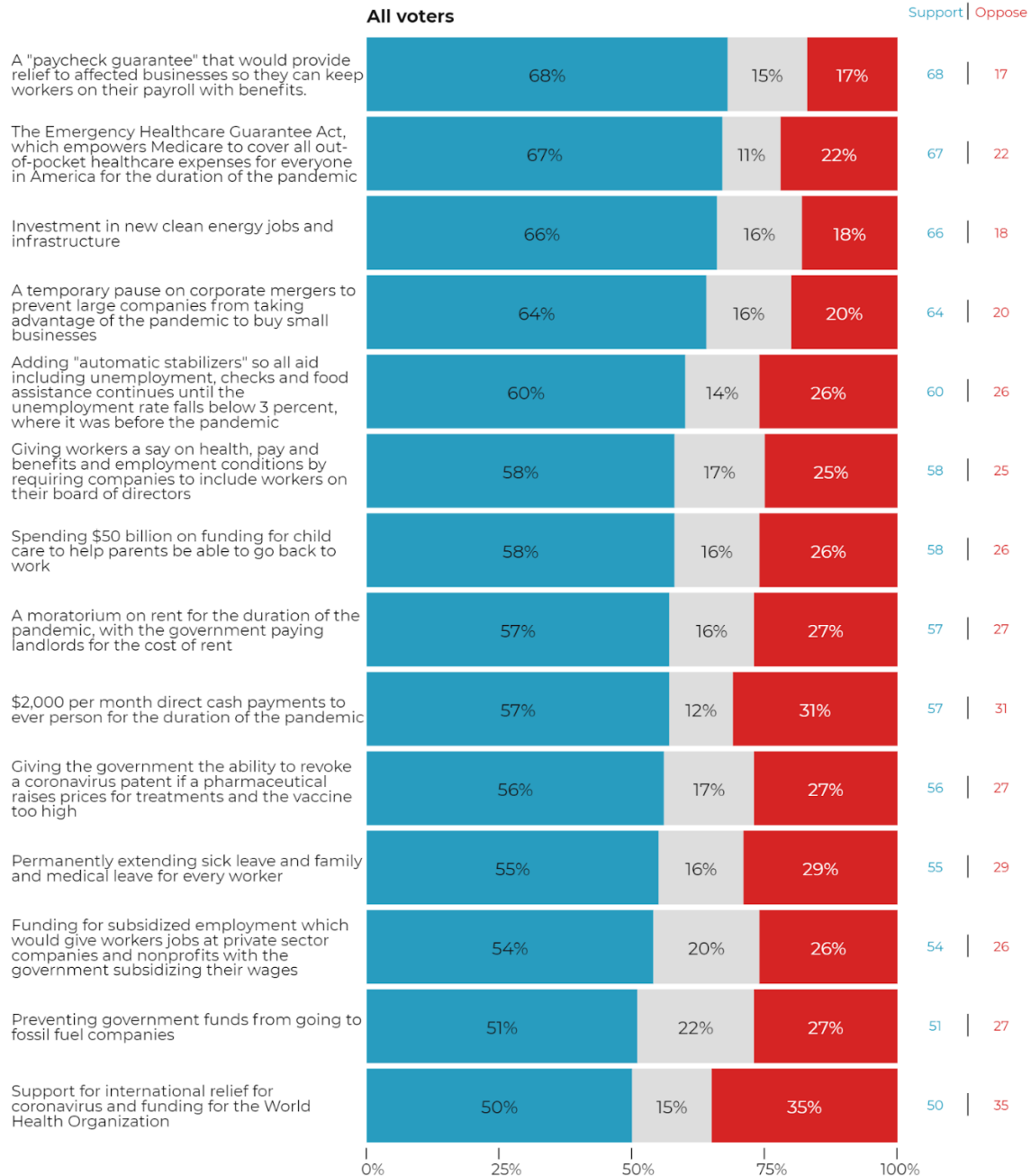
We then tested support for additional relief measures not yet included in the HEROES Act. All enjoyed widespread support from voters. Far and away the most popular was a “paycheck guarantee” which enjoyed a 51-point margin of support (68 percent support, 17 percent oppose). This proposal would provide financial support to distressed businesses so that they could keep workers on the payroll. Also popular was the

Emergency Healthcare Guarantee Act which is supported by a 45-point margin (67 percent support, 22 percent). This proposal, spearheaded by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Pramila Jayapal would empower the Medicare system to cover the out-of-pocket costs for everyone in America. Also popular, netting a 26-point margin of support, was a proposal to implement an emergency universal basic income in the form of providing \$2000 a month to everyone in the United States during the duration of the crisis. Voters are also incredibly receptive to automatic stabilizers, backing the proposal by a 34-point margin (60 percent support, 26 percent oppose). Automatic stabilizers are a kind of policy that, applied in this instance, would keep all aid flowing until unemployment fell below three percentage points.

Voters Want Additional Measures for Coronavirus Relief

Would you support or oppose the following ideas being included in a relief package?

Support Don't know Oppose



Data for Progress

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

The CARES Act has both helped a majority of Americans and support for it remains high. Though states are now undergoing the process of reopening, voters remain incredibly concerned about the state of the economy and the public health emergency. That another wave of the virus may also necessitate the need for a return to more stringent controls to contain the virus is of particular worry to voters. Relatedly, voters are supportive of the HEROES Act which now sits in the Senate waiting for a vote as well as additional expansive economic relief measures, such as monthly cash payments to all people in the United States.

METHODOLOGY

From June 26 through June 27, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,388 likely voters nationally using web-panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is +/- 2.6 percentage points.

Due to rounding, some values may sum to 99 or 101 percentage points.