



The differences between medical and dental benefits?

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## Driving the Conversation:

# With public support slipping, should Obama worry? Is it just "turbulence?"\*

## July 21, 2009

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**David Boaz**, Executive VP, Cato Institute:

**Politicians should always take polls with a grain of salt.** But if you're going to say "the [health care] deadline isn't being set by me, it's being set by the American people," as Obama did this morning, then it's fair to ask for the evidence. In the USA Today poll, a majority oppose Obama's health care efforts and 59 percent say he's spending too much.

In yesterday's Washington Post poll, only 25 percent "strongly approve" of his health care plans, and 33 percent strongly disapprove. So where's the demand for action NOW that Obama claims the American people are setting?

Obama's personal popularity -- and the limitations of polls of generally uninformed people -- are surely reflected in the Post poll's finding that among all Americans, 52 percent consider Obama a "new-style Democrat who will be careful with the public's money."

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