

## FINDINGS

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### Support/Opposition to Limiting the Level of Jury Awards

*Maine's healthcare costs are among the highest in the nation. Medical liability, or lawsuits against doctors, is one factor driving up costs. Do you support or oppose limiting the level of jury awards in such lawsuits if that would lower healthcare costs? Is that strongly or somewhat support/oppose? [Options were rotated]*

Nearly three-fourths (73.8%) of the 400 Maine residents surveyed indicated that they "support" limiting the level of jury awards in medical liability lawsuits in order to lower healthcare costs (either "strongly support" – 51.0%, or "somewhat support" – 22.8%). While 12.0% of respondents "strongly oppose" limiting the level of jury awards in such lawsuits, 7.8% "somewhat oppose" this measure. Less than seven percent (6.5%) of respondents were undecided.

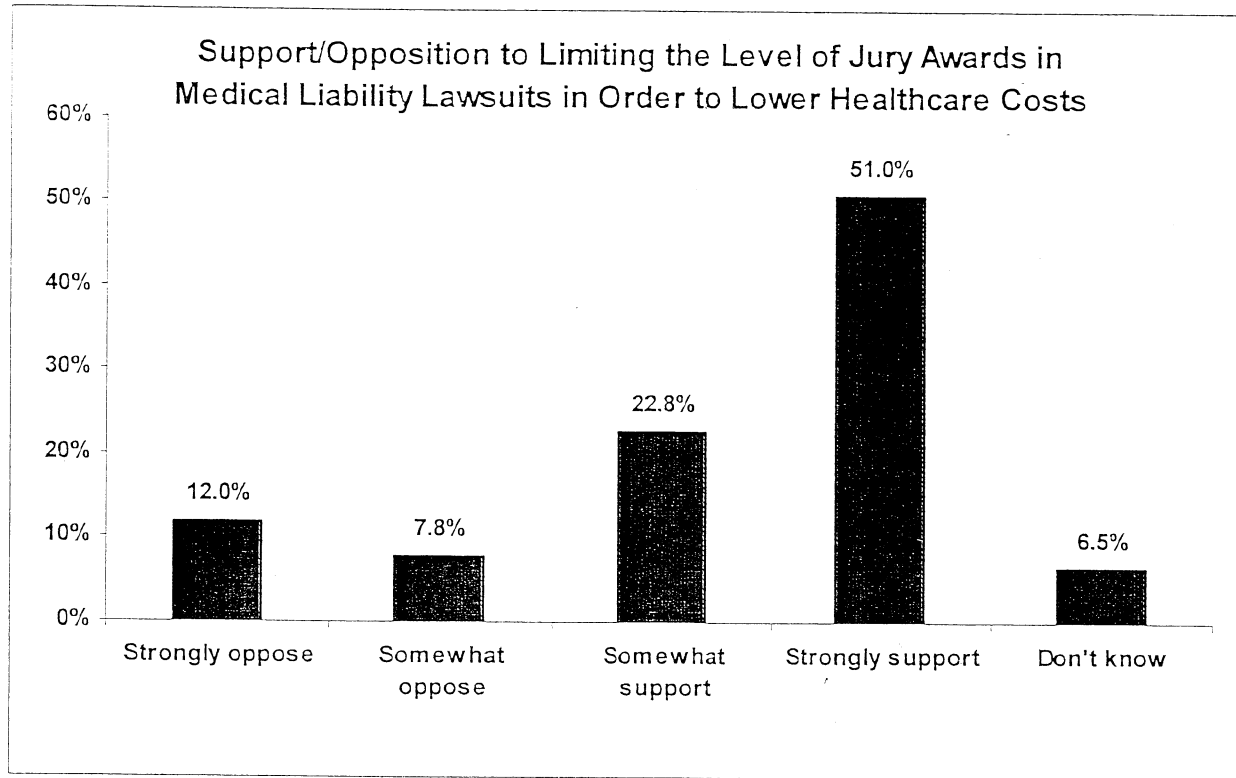
Respondents in the following demographic groups were more likely than their counterparts to indicate that they "strongly support" limiting the level of jury awards in medical liability lawsuits in order to lower healthcare costs: registered Republicans (64.0%), those aged 55 or older (60.3%), and respondents who have at most completed a high school degree (58.1%).

### **Support/Opposition to Limiting the Level of Jury Awards:**

(N=400)	February 2005
Strongly oppose	12.0%
Somewhat oppose	7.8%
Somewhat support	22.8%
Strongly support	51.0%
Don't know	6.5%
Strongly/Somewhat oppose combined	19.8%
Strongly/Somewhat support combined	73.8%

FINDINGS

Support/Opposition to Limiting the Level of Jury Awards (continued)



## FINDINGS

### Support/Opposition to Limiting Non-economic Damages to \$250,000

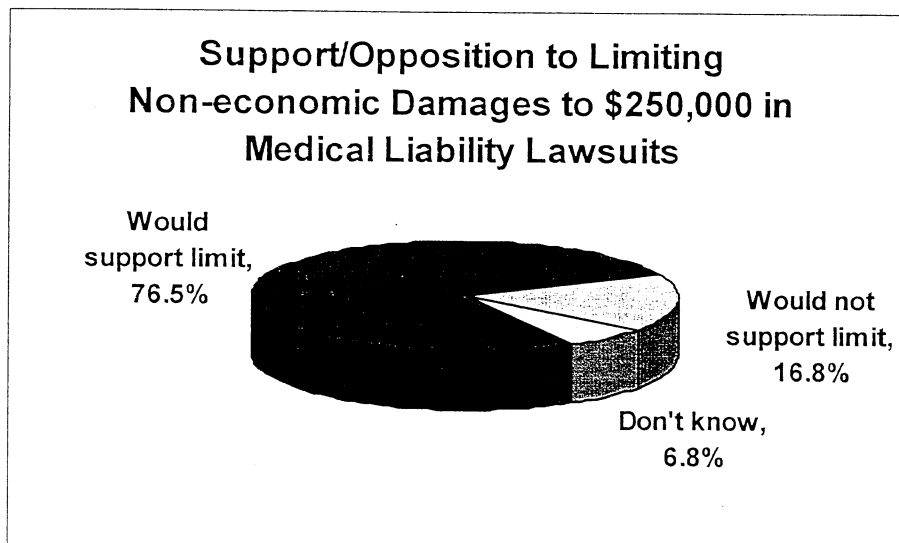
*In a medical liability case, damages awarded are for either economic loss (such as medical expenses and lost wages) or non-economic loss (such as pain and suffering). In order to preserve access to medical care, would you support placing a limit of \$250,000 on non-economic damages, as long as all economic loss was recoverable?*

Just over three-fourths (76.5%) of respondents would support placing a limit of \$250,000 on non-economic damages in medical liability cases as long as all economic loss was recoverable. While 16.8% of respondents would not support this limit, 6.8% were undecided.

Residents of Central/Western Maine (85.4%) were more likely than those living in either Southern Maine (74.1%) or Northern/Down East Maine (69.6%) to indicate that they would support placing a limit of \$250,000 on non-economic damages in medical liability cases as long as all economic loss was recoverable. In addition, registered Republicans (84.0%) and Independents (78.6%) were more likely than registered Democrats (66.4%) to support such a limit.

### **Support/Opposition to Limiting Non-economic Damages to \$250,000:**

(N=400)	February 2005
Yes, would support limit	76.5%
No, would not support limit	16.8%
Don't know	6.8%



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In a medical liability case, damages awarded are for either economic loss (such as medical expenses and lost wages) and non-economic loss (such as pain and suffering). In order to preserve access to medical care, would you support placing a limit of \$250,000 on non-economic damages, as long as all economic loss was recoverable?

	Region			Born in Maine		Age				Education			Gender	
	Southern	Central/Western	Northern/Dowm East	Yes	No	18-34	35-54	55+	Refused	HS grad or less	Some College	College grad or more	Male	Female
Total	400	158	130	112	245	66	177	156	1	148	101	148	194	206
Yes, would support limit	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
No, would not support limit	74.1%	111	78	197	108	52	134	120		120	72	111	147	159
Don't know	6.2%	29	14	24	33	10	34	22	1	18	21	28	30	29
Refused	18.4%	10.8%	21.4%	13.5%	22.1%	15.2%	19.2%	14.1%	100.0%	12.2%	20.8%	18.9%	19.6%	14.1%
Don't know	2.7%	12	5	10	15	4	9	14		10	8	9	9	18
	6.8%	7.6%	3.8%	8.9%	6.1%	6.1%	5.1%	9.0%		6.8%	7.9%	6.1%	4.6%	4.7%

Strategic Marketing Services (February, 2005)

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	Registered Party										2004 Household Income						Gender	
	Dem	Green	Ind	Rep	Other	Not reg.	Don't Know/Refused	Less than \$25K	\$25K < \$45K	\$45K < \$65K	\$65K+	Refused	Male	Female				
Total	400	137	4	117	125	1	4	69	82	86	86	77	194	206				
Yes, would support limit	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%				
No, would not support limit	76.5%	91	4	92	105	10	4	55	66	65	65	55	147	159				
Don't know	6.7%	36		15	15	1		9	13	14	14	17	30	29				
Refused	16.8%	26.3%		12.8%	12.0%	8.3%		13.0%	15.9%	16.3%	16.3%	22.1%	19.6%	14.1%				
Don't know	2.7%	10		10	5	1		5	3	7	7	5	9	18				
	6.9%	7.3%		8.5%	4.0%	100.0%		7.2%	3.7%	8.1%	8.1%	6.5%	4.6%	4.7%				

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Total	400	158	130	112	245	154	66	177	156	1	148	101	148	3	194	206		
Strongly oppose	48	22	11	15	26	22	5	21	22		13	13	22		28	20		
Somewhat oppose	31	16	8	7	21	10	6	18	7		8	5	16		14	11		
Somewhat support	91	22	32	37	51	40	25	43	23		29	22	40		31	60		
Strongly support	204	85	70	49	132	71	25	84	94	1	86	55	61	2	107	97		
Don't know	26	13	9	4	15	11	5	11	10		10	6	9	1	8	18		
	6.5%	8.2%	6.9%	3.6%	6.1%	7.1%	7.6%	6.2%	6.4%		6.8%	5.9%	6.1%		4.1%	8.7%		

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Strongly oppose	48	23		13	11	1	7	7	9	8	12	12	28	20				
Somewhat oppose	31	19		5	5		1	4	7	7	6	7	20	11				
Somewhat support	91	29	1	32	25		3	20	20	13	24	14	31	60				
Strongly support	204	55	2	59	80		7	29	43	51	42	39	107	97				
Don't know	26	11	1	8	4		1	9	3	7	2	5	8	18				
	6.5%	8.0%	25.0%	6.8%	3.2%		0.3%	13.0%	3.7%	8.1%	2.3%	6.5%	4.1%	8.7%				

Strategic Marketing Services (February, 2005)