



Vermont State Dental Society

*Key findings from a statewide survey of 400 likely voters in Vermont;
conducted February 24-25, 2016 by Public
Opinion Strategies, Alexandria, VA.*



Methodology

Statewide survey of 400 voters. Conducted February 24-25, 2016
. Margin of error of $\pm 4.90\%$

3% 18 - 24

11% 25 - 34

14% 35 - 44

16% 45 - 54

27% 55 - 64

29% 65 +

23% HIGH SCHOOL OR LESS

18% SOME COLLEGE

59% COLLEGE+

22% TOTAL REPUBLICAN

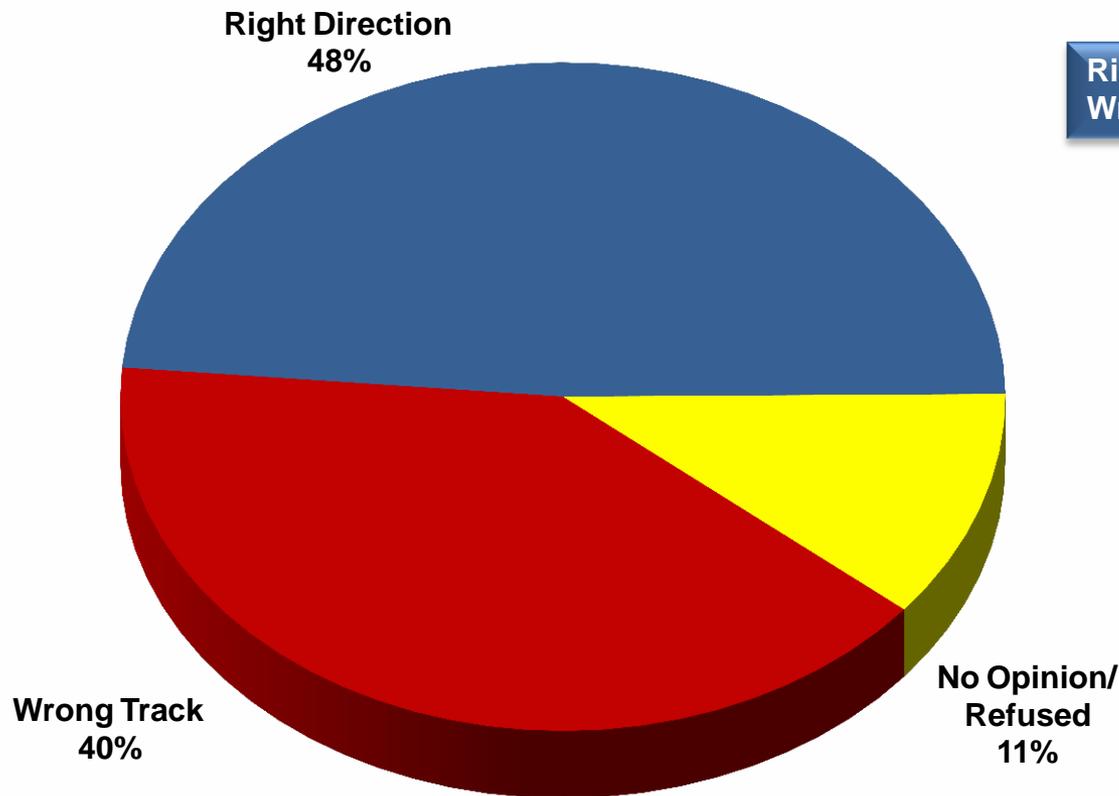
38% TOTAL DEMOCRAT

40% TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT

The overall mood of the electorate is about evenly split.

Would you say that things in Vermont are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

State Mood



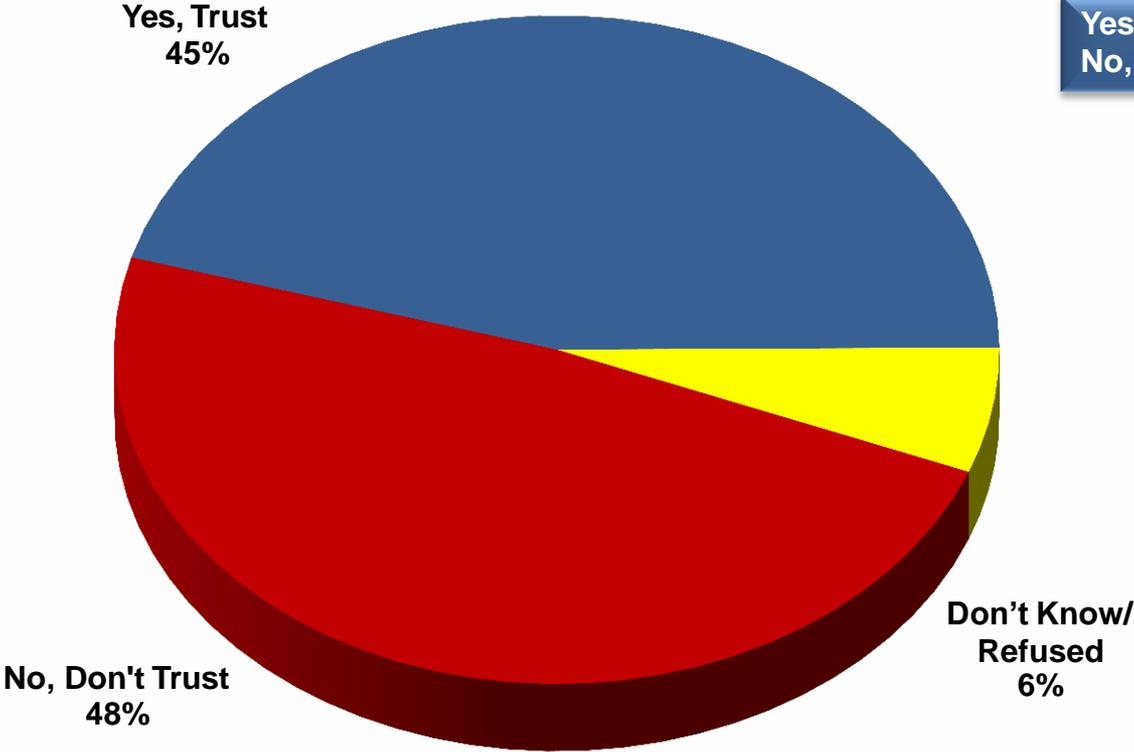
Dental Therapist Proposal

		Support	Oppose
Right Direction	48%	57%	40%
Wrong Track	40%	32%	49%

	RD	WT
South (32%)	52%	37%
Northeast (14%)	40%	52%
Northwest (54%)	48%	40%
NW w/o Ch. (28%)	44%	42%
Chittenden (26%)	52%	37%

Opinions on the Legislature's ability to make healthcare and dental care more affordable are also about equally divided.

Would you say you trust the Vermont Legislature to make decisions that make healthcare and dental care more affordable for you and your family?



Dental Therapist Proposal

		Support	Oppose
Yes, Trust	45%	57%	38%
No, Don't Trust	48%	40%	55%

	Yes	No
South (32%)	54%	39%
Northeast (14%)	39%	59%
Northwest (54%)	42%	51%
NW w/o Ch. (28%)	42%	50%
Chittenden (26%)	42%	52%

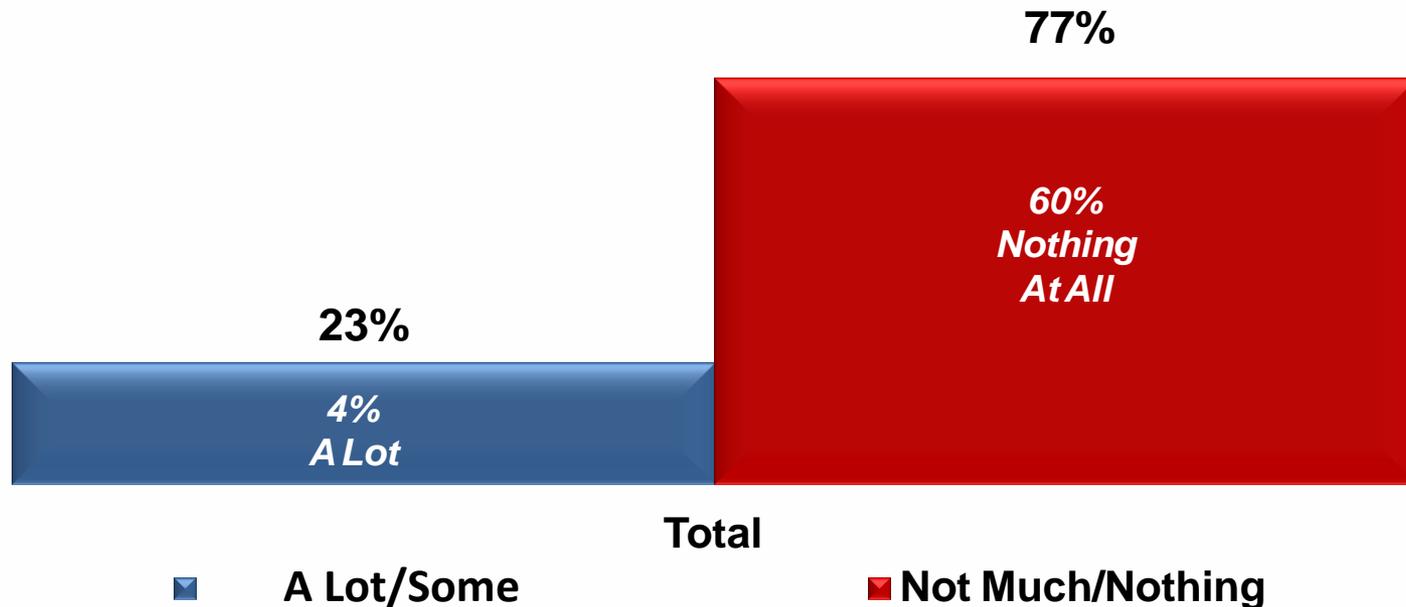
Not many voters have heard of the proposal...

As you may know, there is a proposal being debated in the state capitol that if passed will allow dental therapists to complete most dental treatments, including irreversible procedures, like tooth extractions and drilling.

Dental therapists would have much less formal education and training than dentists who are required to have a bachelors degree, plus four years of highly specialized dental medical school to become doctors of dentistry.

How much have you seen, read, or heard recently regarding dental therapists?

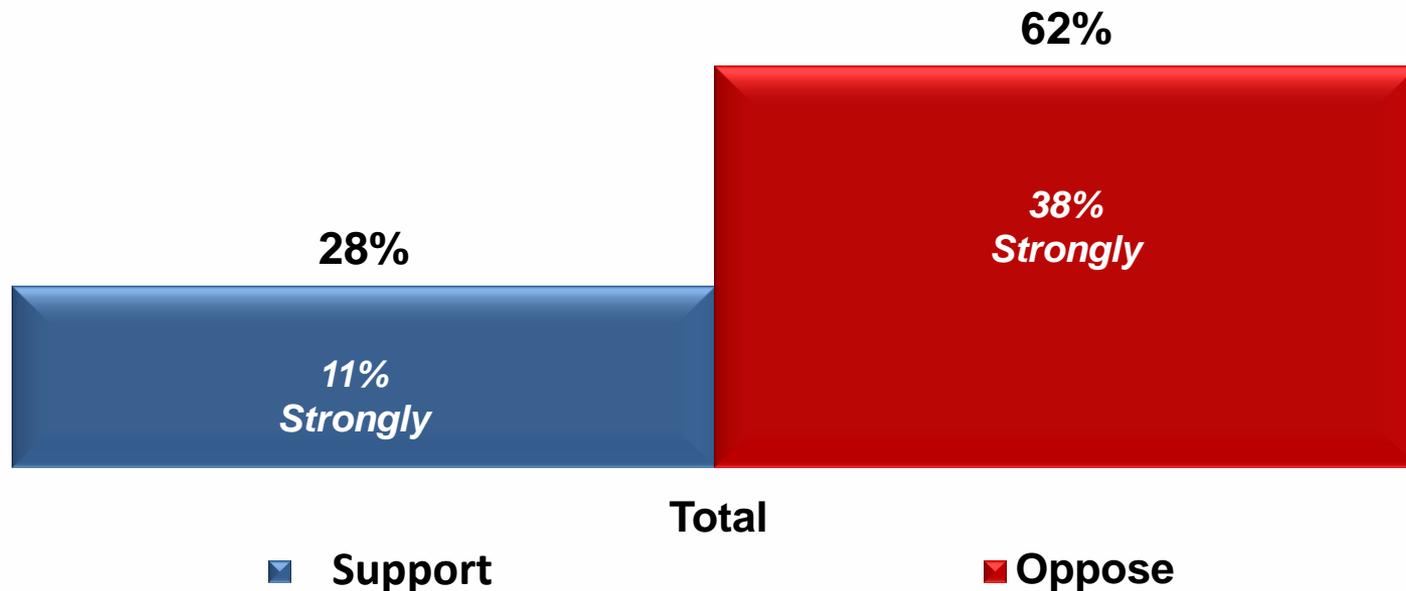
Dental Therapist Proposal Seen/Read/Heard



And most do not like the idea at all.

Would you support or oppose the proposal to allow dental therapists to perform most dental treatments, including irreversible procedures, like the extraction and drilling of teeth?

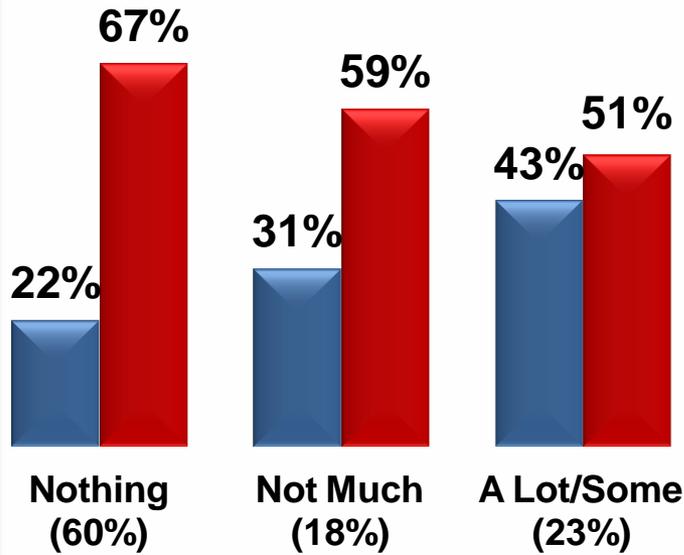
Initial Dental Therapist Proposal



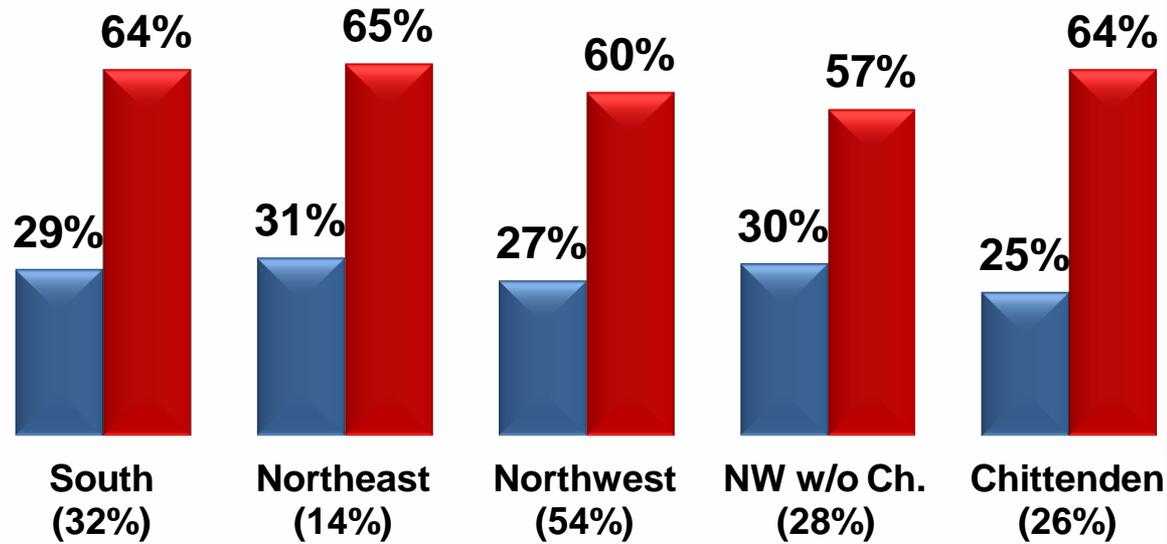
Opposition cuts across all regions in the state.

Initial Dental Therapist Proposal

By S/R/H



By Region



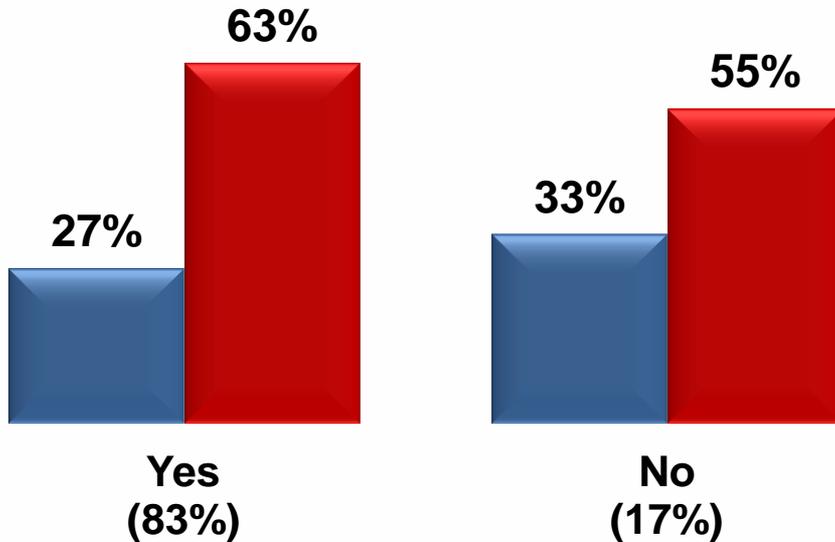
■ Support

■ Oppose

Even of the 17% of voters who did not visit a dentist in the last year, most do not like the proposal.

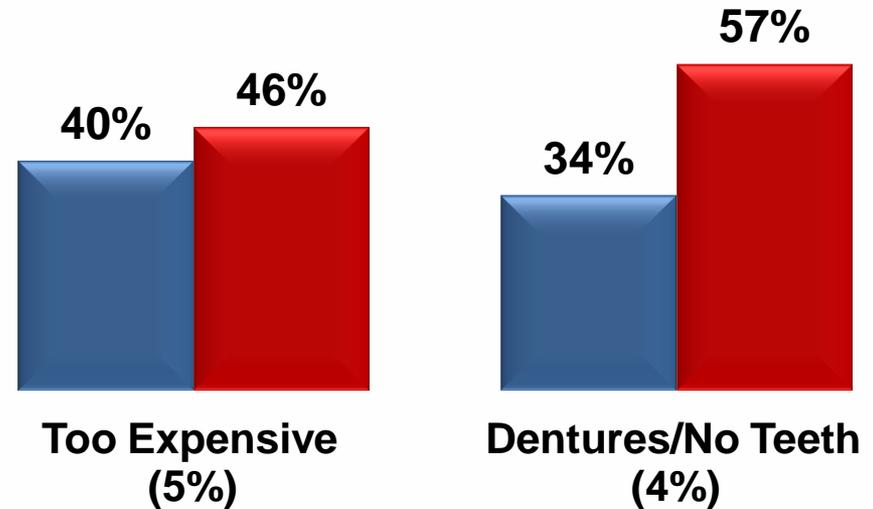
Initial Dental Therapist Proposal

By Visited Dentist



■ Support

By Why Not Visited Dentist*



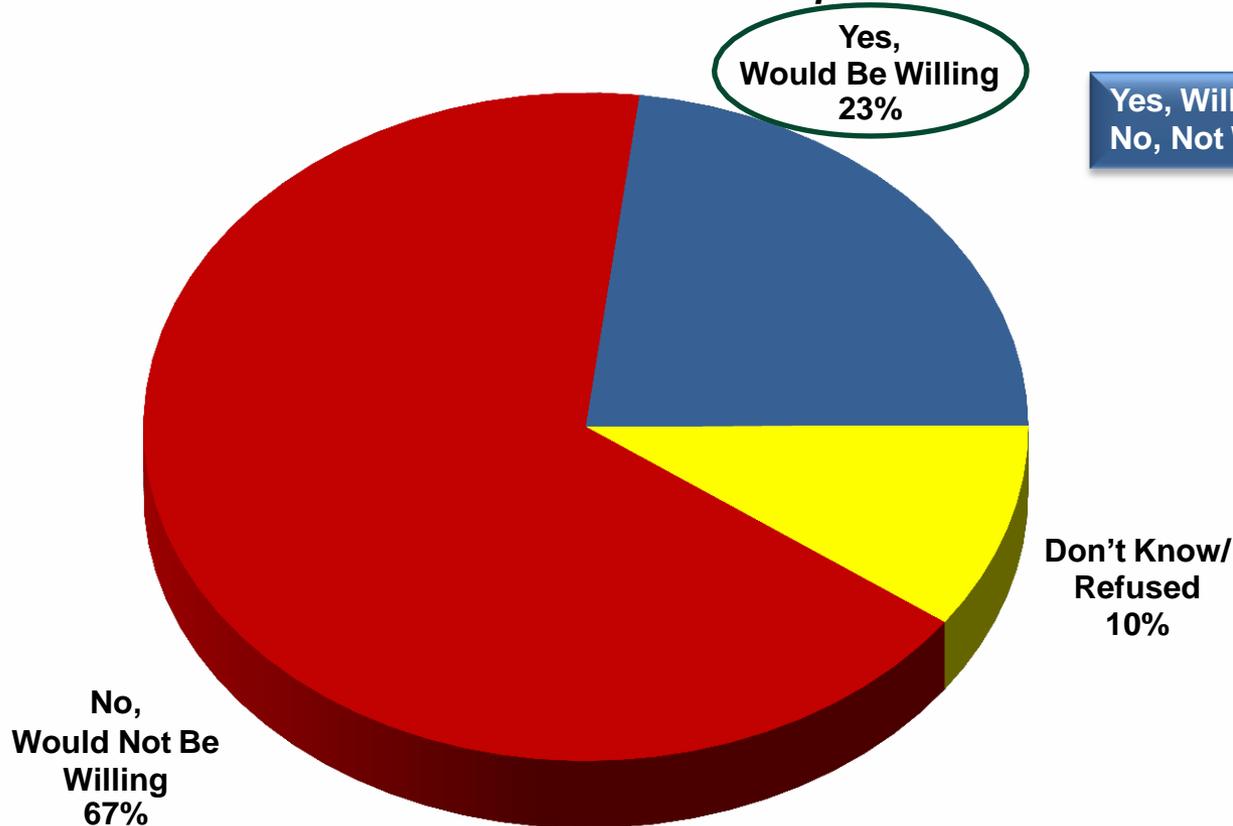
■ Oppose

(*N=68)

Fewer than one-in-four Vermonters would be willing to have a dental therapist perform a procedure.

Would you be willing to have irreversible procedures performed by a dental therapist, instead of a dentist?

Dental Therapist Perform Procedures



Dental Therapist Proposal
Support Oppose

Yes, Willing	23%	65%	5%
No, Not Willing	67%	27%	93%

But four-in-ten agree that the proposal would increase access to under-served populations.

*I would like to read you two statements about dental therapists.
After I read the statements, please tell me which comes closest to your own opinion.*

“SOME people say that allowing dental therapists with only a bachelors degree to provide care currently provided by dentists would lower the standard of care, and increase costs, because they are not adequately trained to perform irreversible procedures.”

49%

“OTHER people say that the new dental therapist profession requiring only a bachelors degree to practice dental care would increase access to dental care for under served populations.”

40%

	Some	Other
Total	49%	40%
GOP	70%	17%
IND	43%	45%
DEM	42%	49%
South	44%	40%
Northeast	50%	46%
Northwest	51%	39%
NW w/o Ch	52%	39%
Chittenden	50%	39%
18-44	45%	43%
45-54	50%	39%
55-64	43%	50%
65+	56%	30%

The lack of dental therapist training and ability to prescribe painkillers concerns many voters.

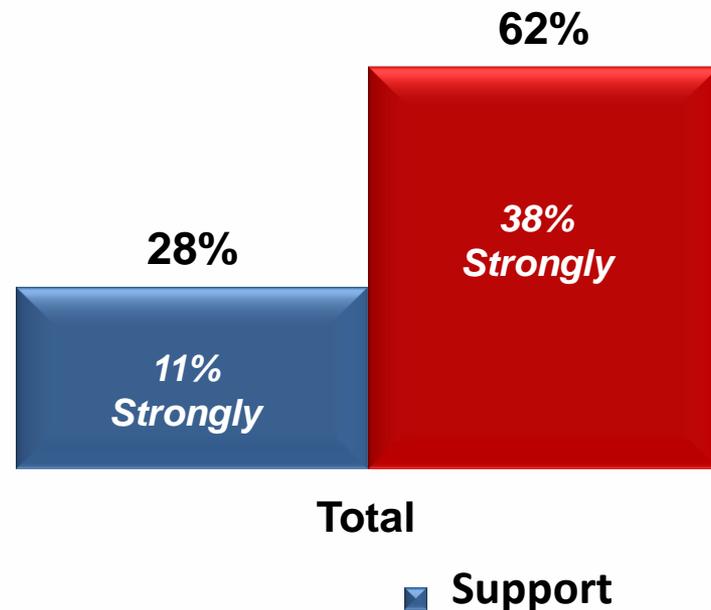
*Now I am going to read you several statements about dental therapists.
After I read each one, please tell me if each statement makes you more likely to support dental therapists,
less likely to support dental therapists, or if it makes no difference to you one way or another.*

	% Less Likely	Move
Dental therapists would be able to prescribe certain kinds of painkillers, including narcotics, without the direct supervision of a doctor of dentistry.	60%	63%
Dental therapists will be able to perform complex and irreversible oral surgeries, without the same level of training that dentists are required to have.	54%	48%
Despite less education and training, there is no cost savings for the patient as compared to care from a doctor of dentistry.	47%	49%

Rx writing, no cost savings and irreversible procedures increases intensity against the proposal.

Now that you have heard some more information...Would you support or oppose the proposal to allow dental therapists to perform most dental treatments, including irreversible procedures, like the extraction and drilling of teeth?

Initial Dental Therapist Proposal



Final Dental Therapist Proposal

