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FOR RELEASE: APRIL 12, 2017

**94% OF VIRGINIANS BACK UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;
VOTERS SUPPORT EXPANDING MEDICAID 2-1**

Virginia voters support 94 – 5 percent, including 90 – 8 percent among Republicans, background checks for all gun buyers, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Voters also support 62 – 32 percent a Virginia law, repealed in 2012, which limited a person to buying only one handgun per month, as opposed to current law which has no limit on handgun purchases, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds.

Republicans oppose the limit 57 – 39 percent. White men are divided, with 46 percent supporting the limit and 50 percent opposed. Every other listed party, gender, educational, age and racial group supports the limit on handgun purchases.

Virginia voter attitudes on other gun issues are:

- Support 54 – 41 percent stricter gun laws in the state;
- 49 percent say it's too easy to buy a gun in Virginia, while 2 percent say it's too difficult and 38 percent say it's "about right;"
- Voters say 66 – 23 percent that new gun laws will not interfere with the right to own guns;
- If more people carried guns, Virginia would be less safe, 53 percent of voters say, while 35 percent say it would be safer.

"Many observers have commented about how much Virginia has changed politically from its deep red history to a leaning Democratic hue in little more than a decade," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

"They generally cite the Democrats' ability to carry the state in the most recent presidential, U.S. Senate and gubernatorial races. But what also seems to be lining up in the Democratic column is Virginia voters' values on some hot-button issues."

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“Virginians, in this latest Quinnipiac University poll, say they favor stricter gun control in general and specifically Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s proposal to limit handgun purchases,” Brown added.

“They want adults to be able to use marijuana on a recreational basis, and they also favor enlarging the government by increasing the number of folks who are covered by Medicaid, the federal/state healthcare program for the poor.”

Virginia voters support 59 – 35 percent allowing adults to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use. Opposition is 61 – 34 percent among Republicans and 60 – 33 percent among voters over 65 years old. All other listed groups support legalized marijuana.

By an overwhelming 92 – 6 percent, voters support allowing adults to use marijuana for medical use if a doctor prescribes it.

Virginia voters also say 59 – 30 percent that increasing the number of people eligible for Medicaid coverage is a “good idea.” Republicans say 64 – 25 percent that it’s a “bad idea,” the only listed group opposed to expanding Medicaid.

A total of 66 percent of Virginia voters are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the way things are going in the state today, while 33 percent are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”

“Virginians are a happy bunch. Two out of three voters say they are satisfied with the way things are going in their state, a good deal higher than in many of the other 49 states. For instance, a Quinnipiac University Poll in New Jersey last month found only 36 percent were satisfied,” Brown said.

From April 6 – 10, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,115 Virginia voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.9 percentage points. Live interviewers call landlines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

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24. Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump's nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	47%	89%	15%	51%	55%	39%	55%	57%
Disapprove	41	2	74	33	35	45	36	27
DK/NA	13	9	11	16	10	15	9	17
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Approve	34%	43%	53%	54%	63%	49%	56%	27%
Disapprove	47	45	38	33	28	35	32	61
DK/NA	18	11	9	13	9	16	13	12

25. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in Virginia today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Very satisfied	10%	6%	15%	8%	11%	9%	8%	10%
Smwht satisfied	56	52	63	57	55	57	62	53
Smwht dissatisfied	26	33	17	28	25	26	26	28
Very dissatisfied	7	7	5	5	7	7	3	8
DK/NA	1	1	-	2	1	1	-	1
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Very satisfied	13%	7%	10%	10%	11%	8%	9%	11%
Smwht satisfied	50	55	61	60	54	61	58	55
Smwht dissatisfied	28	30	23	23	27	26	27	24
Very dissatisfied	7	7	6	6	7	5	6	8
DK/NA	3	1	-	1	1	1	1	2

26. As you may know Medicaid is a government program that pays for health care for low-income people and others with certain disabilities. Do you think that increasing the number of people eligible for Medicaid coverage in Virginia is a good idea or a bad idea?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Good idea	59%	25%	86%	57%	55%	63%	58%	51%
Bad idea	30	64	6	32	35	26	35	35
DK/NA	11	11	7	10	10	12	7	14
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Good idea	63%	57%	61%	59%	51%	58%	55%	71%
Bad idea	27	31	30	31	40	31	35	19
DK/NA	9	12	9	11	9	11	10	10

27. What if you knew that the federal government would pay for 90 percent of the costs of this Medicaid increase, while the state would only need to pay 10 percent; would you think that increasing the number of people eligible for Medicaid coverage in Virginia is a good idea or a bad idea?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Good idea	57%	21%	86%	55%	54%	60%	58%	48%
Bad idea	33	69	7	36	38	28	38	38
DK/NA	10	10	7	9	8	11	4	13
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Good idea	61%	59%	57%	57%	51%	55%	53%	69%
Bad idea	32	31	33	34	43	34	38	20
DK/NA	8	10	10	9	6	11	9	11

28. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in Virginia to legally possess small amounts of marijuana for personal use?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	59%	34%	69%	64%	62%	56%	60%	56%
Oppose	35	61	25	30	32	38	34	39
DK/NA	6	5	5	6	6	5	6	5
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	78%	71%	58%	33%	61%	54%	58%	62%
Oppose	20	24	36	60	33	40	36	33
DK/NA	2	5	6	7	6	6	6	5

29. Do you support or oppose allowing adults in Virginia to legally use marijuana for medical purposes if their doctor prescribes it?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	92%	83%	97%	96%	91%	93%	92%	91%
Oppose	6	13	2	4	8	5	6	8
DK/NA	2	4	1	1	2	2	2	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	97%	96%	94%	84%	91%	92%	91%	95%
Oppose	3	3	5	11	7	6	7	4
DK/NA	-	1	1	5	2	2	2	1

30. Do you support or oppose stricter gun laws in Virginia?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	54%	19%	84%	50%	42%	64%	53%	43%
Oppose	41	76	12	46	53	32	43	52
DK/NA	5	5	4	4	5	4	4	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	54%	50%	57%	53%	38%	59%	49%	64%
Oppose	41	47	39	41	58	37	47	31
DK/NA	5	3	4	5	4	4	4	5

31. Do you support or oppose requiring background checks for all gun buyers?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	94%	90%	99%	94%	91%	96%	94%	94%
Oppose	5	8	1	6	7	3	6	3
DK/NA	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	2
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			Non-
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Support	95%	90%	95%	96%	91%	97%	94%	93%
Oppose	5	5	4	3	7	2	5	6
DK/NA	-	5	1	1	2	1	1	2

32. Until 2012, individuals could only buy one handgun a month in Virginia. The law was changed so there is now no limit on handgun purchases. Which do you prefer, the old law that limited people to buying one handgun per month, or the current law which does not limit purchases of handguns?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
One gun per month	62%	39%	85%	59%	49%	73%	63%	51%
No limits	32	57	9	37	45	21	31	45
DK/NA	6	4	5	5	6	6	6	4

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
One gun per month	53%	60%	68%	68%	46%	69%	58%	72%
No limits	40	35	28	28	50	25	37	21
DK/NA	7	5	4	5	4	6	5	7

33. Do you think it is too easy to buy a gun in Virginia today, too difficult to buy a gun in Virginia today, or about right?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Too easy	49%	25%	78%	40%	37%	60%	49%	36%
Too difficult	2	3	-	2	3	1	2	2
About right	38	61	14	45	52	26	39	51
DK/NA	11	10	9	13	8	13	10	11

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Non-	
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Wht
Too easy	48%	51%	50%	51%	34%	52%	43%	63%
Too difficult	-	4	2	-	3	1	2	2
About right	39	41	36	38	57	33	45	25
DK/NA	13	4	12	11	6	14	10	10

34. Do you think any new gun laws will interfere with the right to own guns, or do you think it's possible to make new gun laws without interfering with gun rights?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Will interfere	23%	38%	12%	24%	29%	17%	23%	28%
Won't interfere	66	55	79	68	63	69	70	62
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	-
DK/NA	10	8	7	8	8	12	7	10

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Non-Wht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Will interfere	20%	22%	24%	25%	33%	18%	25%	18%
Won't interfere	72	71	69	58	61	71	66	68
NO RIGHT TO OWN (VOL)	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1
DK/NA	8	7	5	16	6	10	8	13

35. If more people carried guns, do you think Virginia would be safer or less safe?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WHITE..... COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Safer	35%	69%	9%	38%	48%	23%	35%	46%
Less safe	53	19	85	48	40	65	56	43
DK/NA	12	12	6	14	12	12	10	12

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Non-Wht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Safer	36%	40%	34%	31%	52%	28%	40%	25%
Less safe	48	51	56	59	38	61	50	64
DK/NA	16	9	10	10	10	11	11	1