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To: Interested Parties

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## ■ Polling Finds App Drivers Eligible for Benefits Under Prop 22 Largely Unaware and Uninformed About Application and Receipt of Earned Health Care Stipend Promised by Gig Companies like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Postmates

Recent survey research among gig workers finds app drivers eligible to “opt in” for benefits under Prop 22 are largely unaware of and uninformed about how to apply for and receive the health care stipend offered by gig companies like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Postmates under the measure. These drivers report receiving little information from the companies which would provide the stipend and little sense of how to receive the health care benefit. This means that many app drivers risk missing out on this benefit that the gig companies offered as part of Prop 22.

This survey research was conducted by Tulchin Research, a leading national polling firm, working with SEIU 721 among a random sample of gig workers in California. The results have been analyzed and presented by Tulchin Research with the purpose of gaining insights about the awareness app drivers have for their eligibility to receive the health care stipend. We provide details from this research below.

### Most Drivers Have Not Applied For A Health Care Stipend And Report Knowing Little About How to Receive This Benefit

An overwhelming majority of app-based drivers (85%) say they have not applied for a healthcare stipend to date, including 78% who directly report not signing up for the stipend and another 7% who are unsure all together. Conversely, only 15% of drivers say they have signed up for the stipend, including 11% who say they signed up for it using one app and another 4% who say they applied through more than one app.

<i>Have you already applied for the healthcare stipend</i>	
	<i>All Drivers</i>
Yes – from one app	11%
Yes – from more than one app	4%
No	78%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	7%

The fact that many drivers have yet to sign up for the health care stipend is largely a result of not having enough information. Well over six-in-ten drivers (66%) say that their app-based employer has not given them enough information about how to even apply for the health care stipend while another 17% are simply unsure. Furthermore, another 60% of drivers say they have not been given adequate information from their employer about who is even eligible for the stipend.

<b><i>Do you feel the app you work for has given you enough information about <u>how</u> to apply for a healthcare stipend?</i></b>	
<b><i>All Drivers</i></b>	
Yes	17%
No	66%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	17%
<b>Yes – No</b>	<b>-49</b>

<b><i>Do you feel the app you work for has given you enough information about <u>who</u> is eligible for a healthcare stipend?</i></b>	
<b><i>All Drivers</i></b>	
Yes	21%
No	60%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	19%
<b>Yes – No</b>	<b>-39</b>

### Drivers Are Unaware of Prop 22 Requirements to Receive Healthcare Benefits

The vast majority of drivers also say they are unaware of current requirements to submit proof of enrollment in a health insurance plan to their app employer between April 1 to April 15th, or the two weeks following the end of the first quarter of 2021, before they can receive the stipend. Currently, just 21% of drivers surveyed say they are aware of this requirement while over three-quarters (79%) are either unaware (67%) or unsure altogether (12%). The lack of knowledge around this deadline has unsurprisingly led to just 17% of drivers reporting that they have requested proof of enrollment from their insurance provider.

<b><i>In order to receive a stipend for the first quarter of 2021, drivers must submit a current proof of enrollment in a health insurance plan to their employer between the dates of April 1 and April 15. Were you aware of this deadline?</i></b>	
<b><i>All Drivers</i></b>	
Yes	21%
No	67%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	12%
<b>Yes – No</b>	<b>-46</b>

<b><i>Gig apps are requiring drivers to provide proof of enrollment in a health insurance plan in order to receive a subsidy, have you requested proof of enrollment from your insurance provider?</i></b>	
<b><i>All Drivers</i></b>	
Yes	17%
No	69%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	14%
<b>Yes – No</b>	<b>-52</b>

### Drivers Do Not Trust Their App-Based Employers

Drivers surveyed in this poll are deeply distrustful of their app-based employers and do not believe they have their best interests in mind. Indeed, two-in-three drivers (66%) agree that their “app-based employer does not care about drivers like me” while a similar share (62%) agree that Proposition 22 has not made it easier to receive health insurance benefits. Making matters worse, a strong majority of drivers (58%) also agree that their app-based employer regularly increases their workload or achievement goals without proper or proportional compensation.

<i>Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.</i>				
	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	<b>Agree – Disagree</b>
<b>My app-based employer does not care about drivers like me.</b>	66%	12%	23%	<b>+54</b>
<b>I can't trust my app-based employer to do the right thing.</b>	64%	13%	22%	<b>+51</b>
<b>My app-based employer regularly increases my workload or achievement goals without proper or proportional compensation.</b>	58%	15%	26%	<b>+43</b>

**These Are Experienced Drivers Who Largely Qualify for These Benefits**

We should note that the drivers interviewed for this survey are largely experienced drivers who would qualify for the stipend based on the number of hours they work per week, which includes nearly half (49%) who report averaging more than 25 hours per week. More specifically, a strong majority of these app drivers (60%) report averaging over 15 or more hours of “engaged” or “active” time per week in the most recent quarter of 2021.

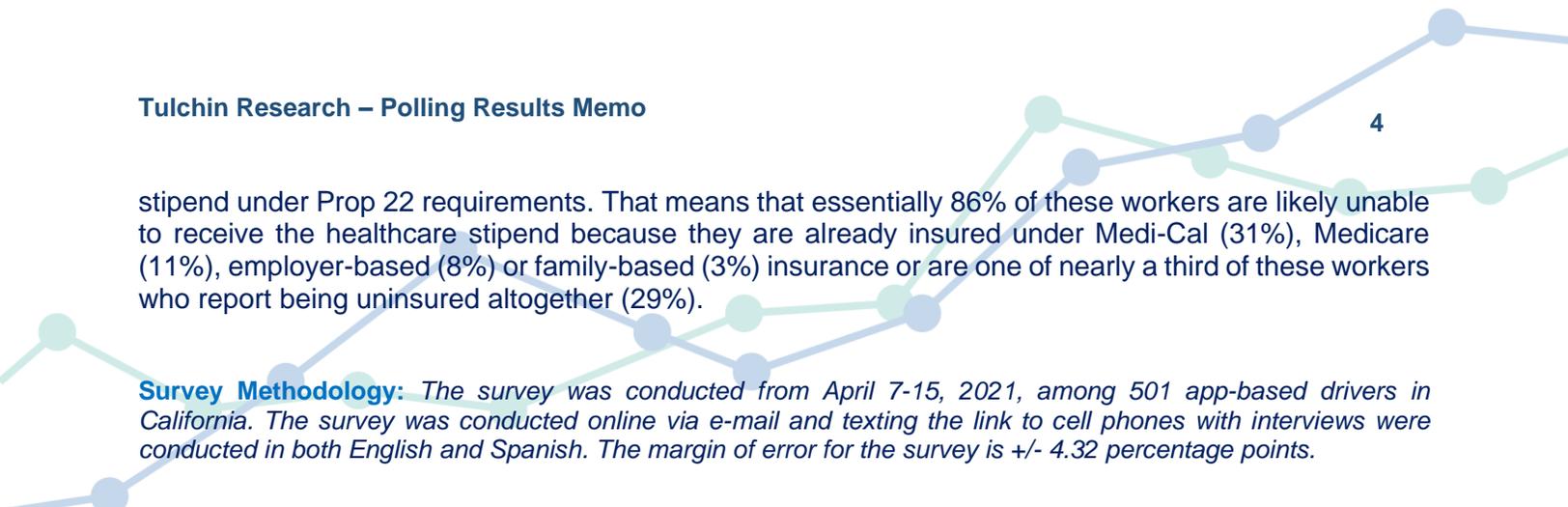
<i>As you may know, Prop 22 requires app companies to provide “engaged” or “active time” information to drivers. On average, how many of these hours did you work per week between January 1 and March 31 of this year for the app?</i>	
	<b>All Drivers</b>
14 hours or fewer of engaged time per week	20%
15-24 hours of engaged time per week	21%
More than 25 hours of engaged time per week	39%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	20%
<b>15+ Hours of engaged time per week</b>	<b>60%</b>

Furthermore, nearly two-thirds of survey respondents report driving for an app company for 3 or more years (64%), with the majority working for Uber (65%) and Lyft (61%) along with DoorDash (26%), Postmates (25%) and Uber Eats (23%) among other apps.

**Conclusion**

These findings show that app drivers are clearly lacking information about how to receive the health care stipend offered by gig companies as part of Prop 22. They report not having or receiving the information they need in order to know whether or not they qualify for the stipend or, if they do qualify, how to receive it.

Many of these drivers are at risk of not qualifying for the health care stipend due to insurance requirements. Just 16% of app drivers report being insured by Covered California/an ACA exchange (10%) or purchase coverage directly through a private insurer (6%), that makes them eligible for the



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stipend under Prop 22 requirements. That means that essentially 86% of these workers are likely unable to receive the healthcare stipend because they are already insured under Medi-Cal (31%), Medicare (11%), employer-based (8%) or family-based (3%) insurance or are one of nearly a third of these workers who report being uninsured altogether (29%).

**Survey Methodology:** *The survey was conducted from April 7-15, 2021, among 501 app-based drivers in California. The survey was conducted online via e-mail and texting the link to cell phones with interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.32 percentage points.*