A Spark Deferred:

The Impact of ITAR and Immigration Policy on the Future of America's Technology Sector

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American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

IEEE-USA

Institute of Electronics and and Electrical Engineering USA

Speakers

- Moderator
  - Dr. Annalisa L. Weigel, Assistant Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Panelists
  - Dr. Claude Canizares, Vice President for Research and Associate Provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
  - Mr. Thomas Moore, Senior Research Engineer, Southwest Research Institute
  - Attorney Mark E. Harrington, Founder and Principal Partner, The Harrington Law Firm

Relevant Bill: STAR Act (S. 3185)

- Introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX)
- Would convert 55,000 diversity visas into STEM visas. Diversity Visa program (the visa lottery) would be eliminated.
- STEM visas would be EB green cards available to international students who earn a Masters or PhD in a STEM field from a university in the US. In addition to a degree, students would have to have a job offer related to their field to qualify for the visas.
- 55,000 visas would, more or less, meet total current demand for these visas, meaning every student who wants one could get one, along with their dependents.
- International STEM students would be allowed dual-intent status, letting them start the process of applying for a green card while still on their student visa without violating the terms of the student visa.

- Similar to language found in the IDEA Act (H.R. 2161 introduced by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)) and the American Innovation and Education Act (H.R. 3146, introduced by Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID)).

Relevant Bill: STAR Act (S. 3185) (cont.)

- Benefits
  - Keeps the best and brightest international students in the country by offering them permanent resident status, generates innovation
  - Creates jobs
  - Extends a welcome to our top international graduates
  - Increases pool of graduates eligible to work in sensitive industries
- Aren't immigrants working on sensitive technology a security risk?
  - No evidence that immigrants are more prone to security leaks, or any less loyal
- What happens if international STEM graduates are forced out of the country after graduation?
  - Return home, discouraged, disillusioned, disgruntled
  - STEM knowledge used against the US for economic and security gains

STEM Visa Proposal

STEM Visa Proposal

Executive Summary:

- **A proposal to create a new category of green cards for highly-skilled foreign students in STEM fields is supported by more than three quarters of voters (76%) nationally.**
- **Support spans political party – with strong support from Democrats (87%), Independents (65%) and Republicans (72%), including those who identify themselves as Conservative (69%) or Tea Party supporters (68%).**
- **And, it doesn't matter if you are a voter in the Deep South (72%), or the Pacific Northwest (76%), support remains high across the nation.**
- **Support for this proposal is even higher among voters under 35 (90%) and Hispanics (90%) – two of the most watched voter groups in the 2012 Presidential election. In fact, nearly three out of four Hispanics voters (73%) strongly support the idea.**

Three-fourths of American voters back the STEM visa proposal and many do so strongly.

"The proposal would create a new category of green cards for highly-skilled foreign students who have earned a masters or doctorate degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics from an American university and have received a job offer to work in the U.S. This would allow these foreign-born students to stay, work and pay taxes here in the United States. Based on this information, do you SUPPORT or OPPOSE creating this new category of green cards to keep foreign students who earn advanced technical degrees?"

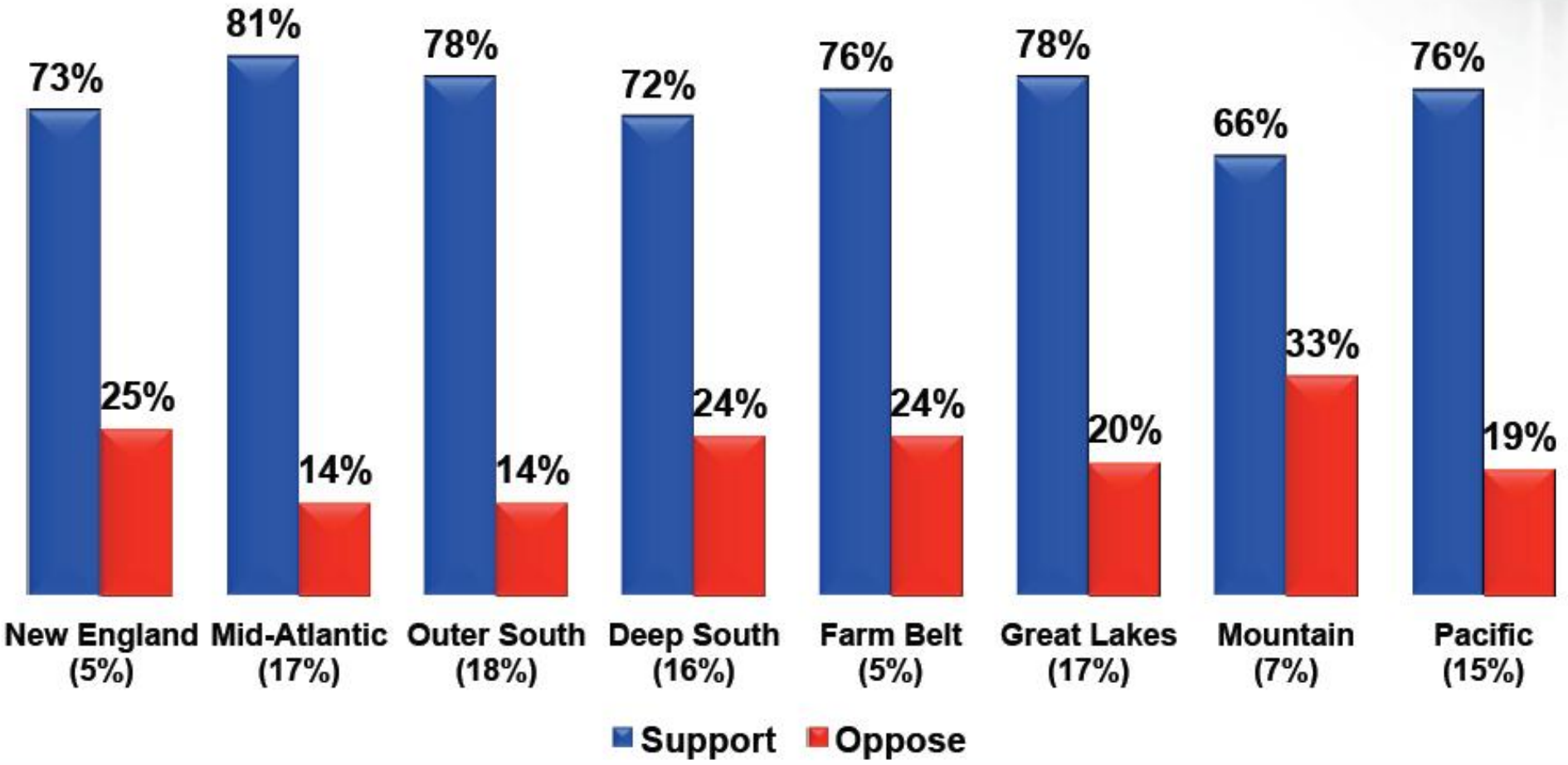
	%
Strongly Support	45%
Somewhat Support	31%
Somewhat Oppose	7%
Strongly Oppose	13%
Undecided/Don't Know	4%

76%
Support

20%
Oppose

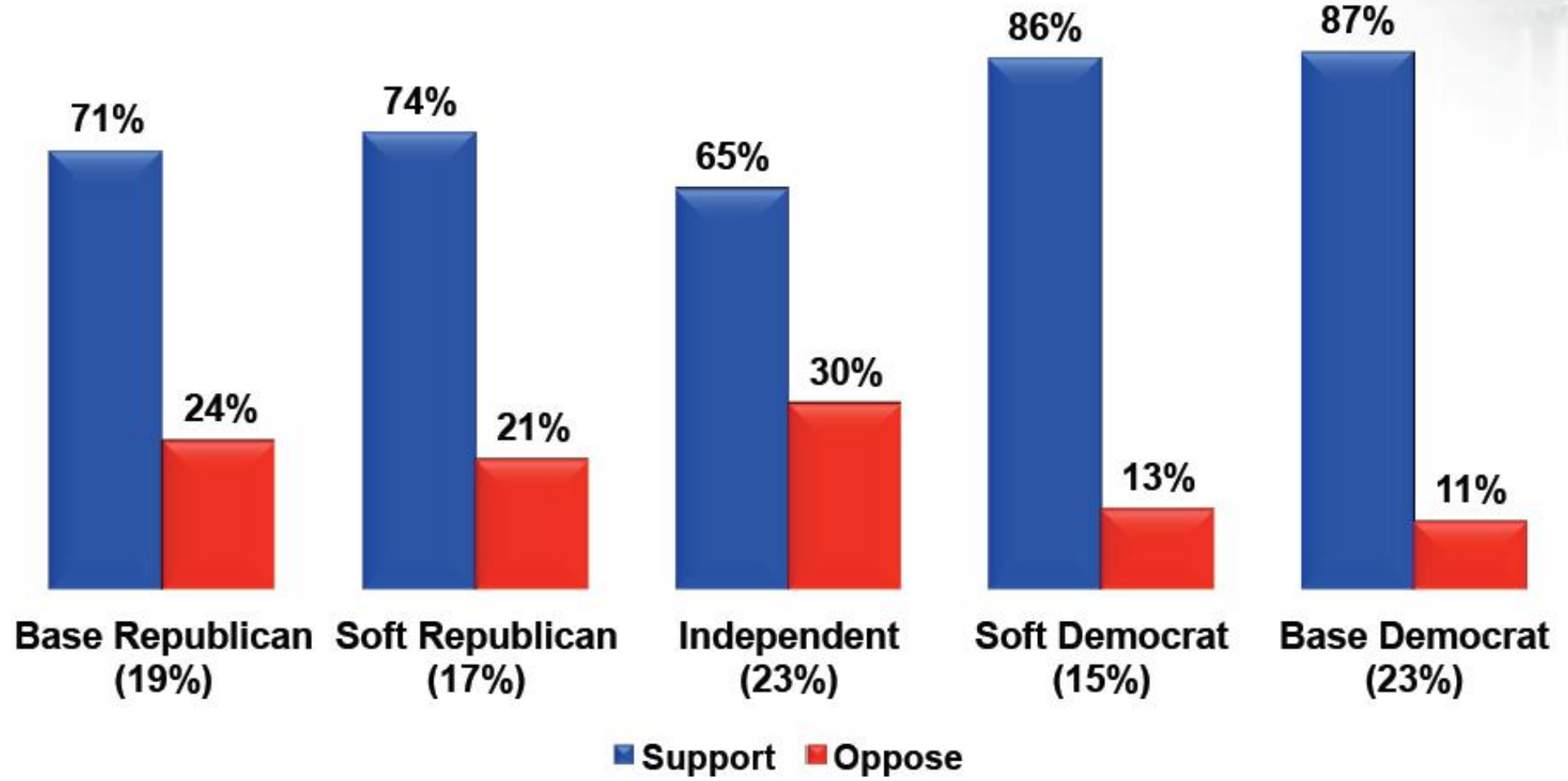
Solid majorities of voters from the east coast to the west coast back the STEM visa proposal.

Green Card Proposal By Region



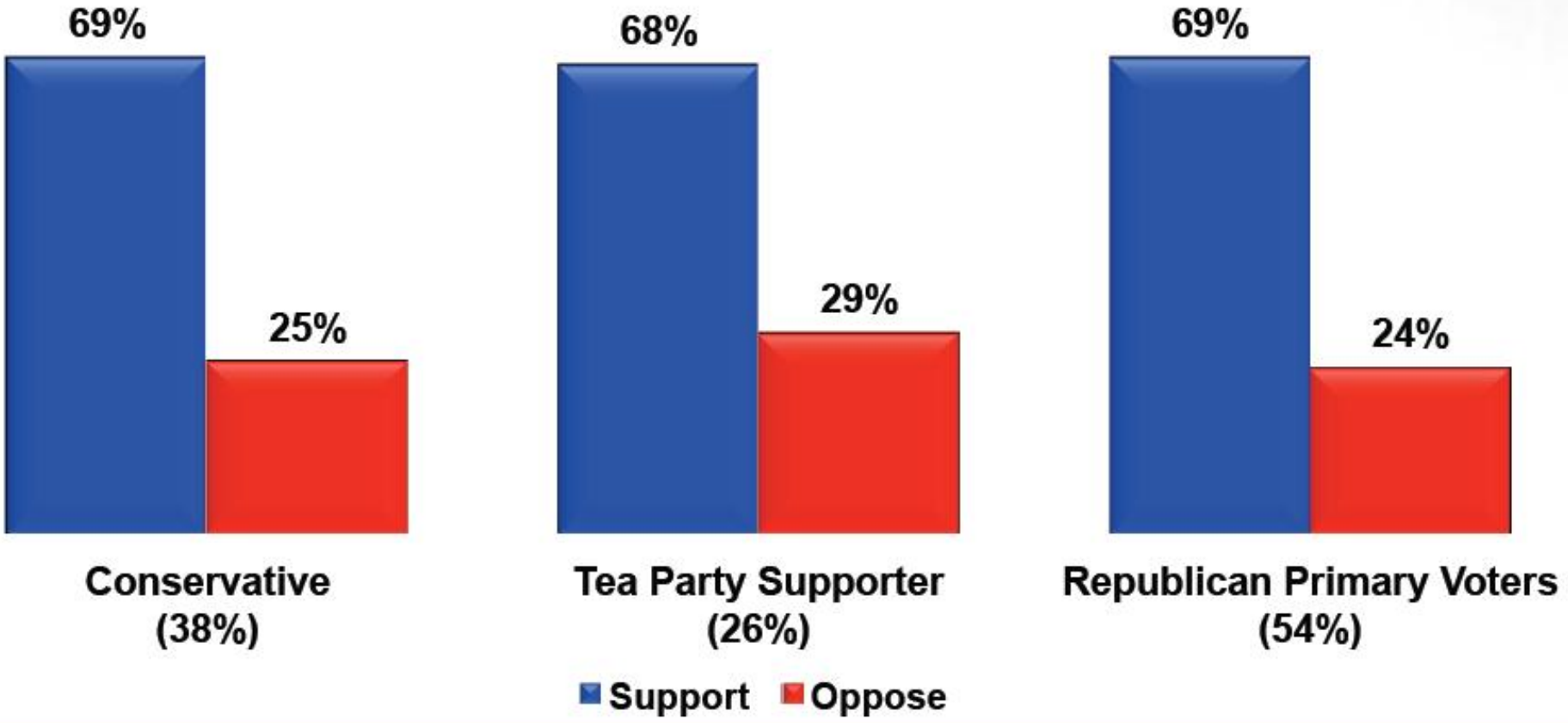
And, there is broad bipartisan backing for the idea.

Green Card Proposal By Party



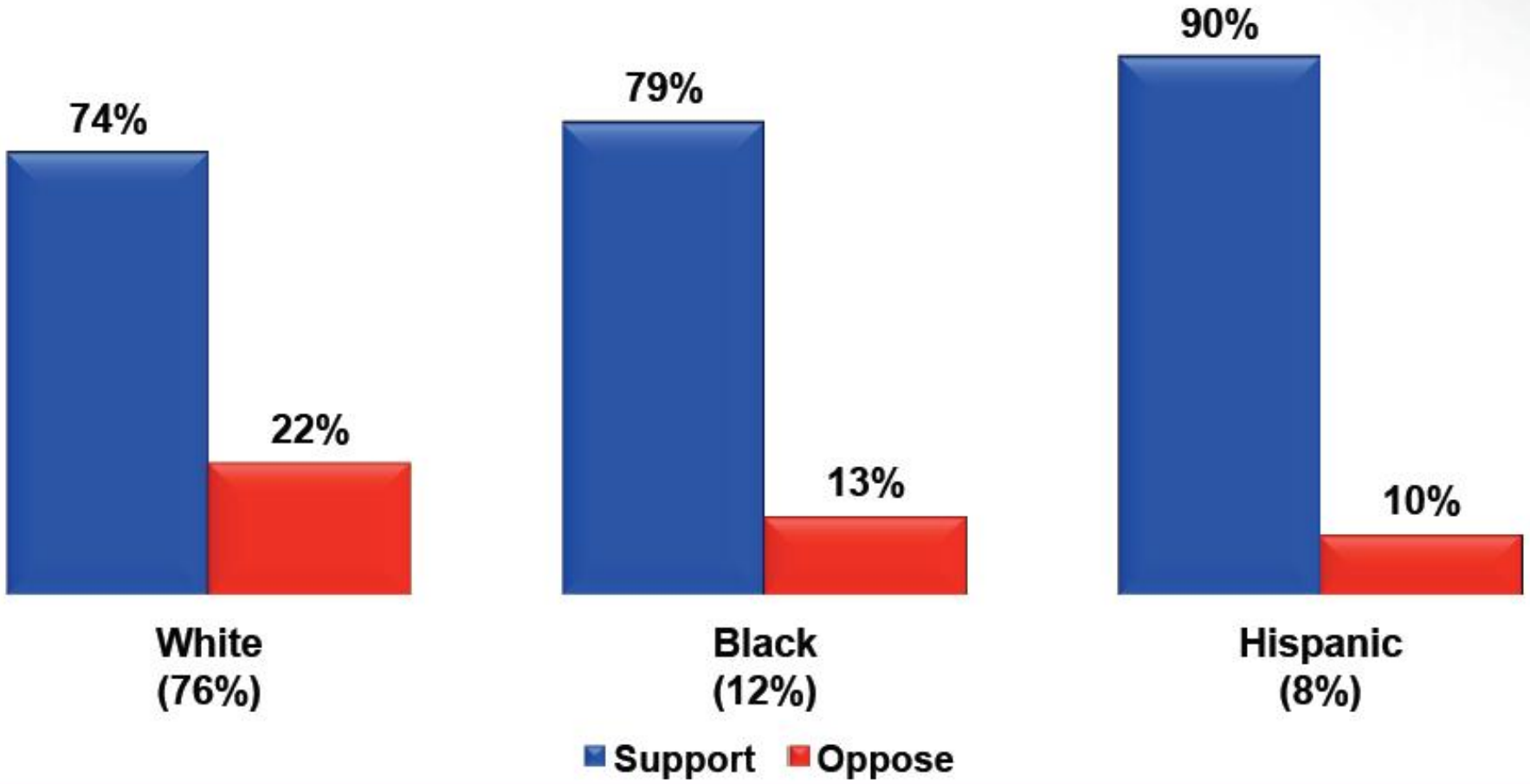
Nearly seven out of ten core Republican voter groups support creating the visa category.

Green Card Proposal By Conservative Groups



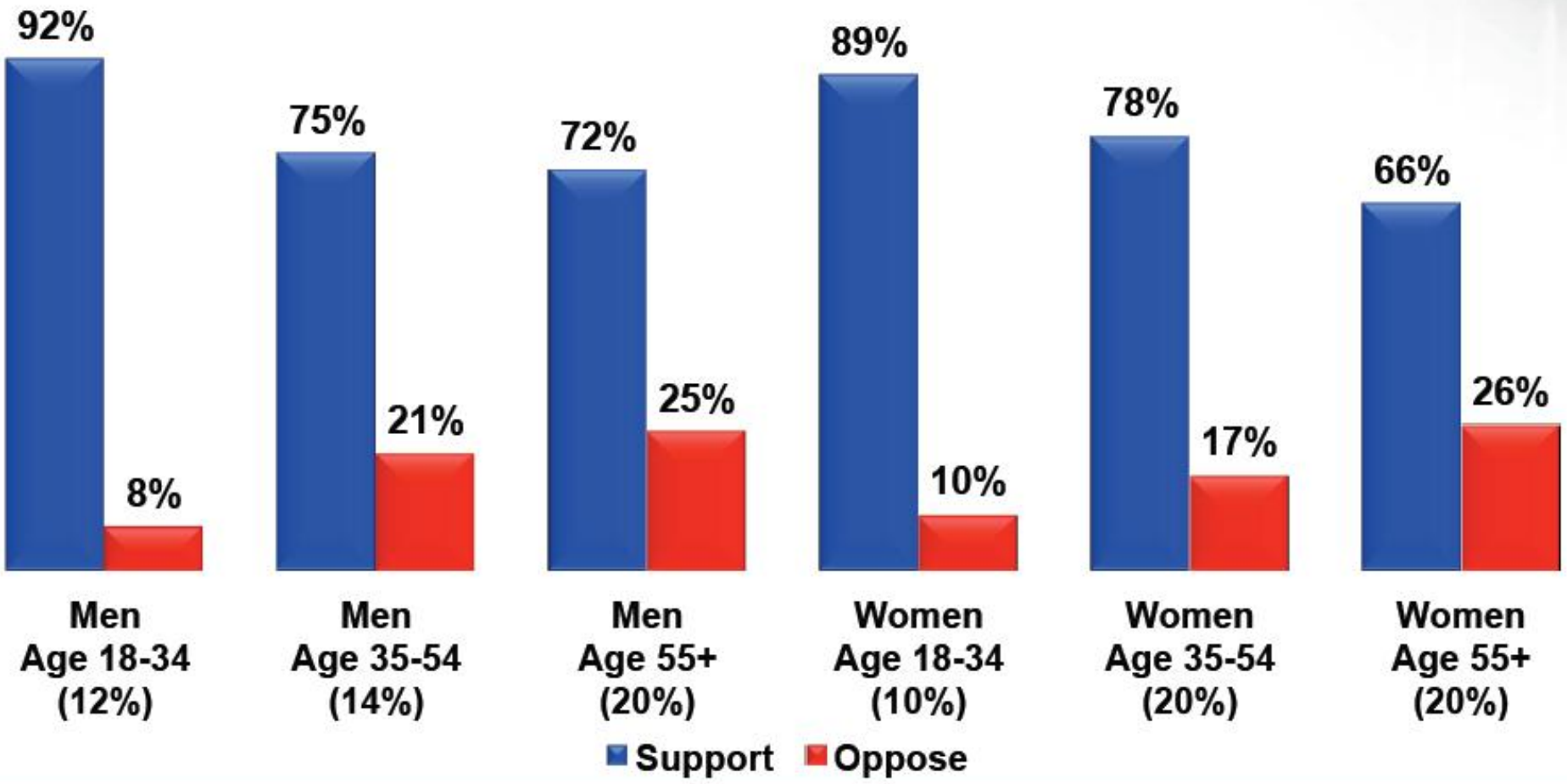
Support is high across racial lines, with Hispanics being among the most supportive sub-group.

Green Card Proposal By Ethnicity



Also, we see a noticeable spike in support among voters under the age of thirty-five.

Green Card Proposal By Gender/Age



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Methodology

- The key findings are drawn from a focus group conducted among Republican primary voters in Richmond, Virginia (April 30, 2012) and from a telephone survey was conducted among 800 likely voters (600 landline/200 cellphone) on May 17, 19-22, 2012. This study has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.46%.

- Additionally, we completed an oversample of 391 likely Republican primary voters nationwide (conducted June 2-3, 2012) to bolster our sample size among base GOPers. The margin of error for the oversample is plus or minus 4.96%.

- Rob Autry and Glen Bolger were the pollsters for this study.

HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRATION

An In-Depth Look At Attitudes Towards Immigration And A STEM Visa Proposal

PARTNERSHIP FOR A NEW AMERICAN ECONOMY

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