

Figure 1. 96% of leaders do not think 21% of GDP is an appropriate target for health care spending in 2020.

"In 2009, health care will account for almost 17% of the nation's economy (gross domestic product [GDP]). It is currently projected to increase to 21% of GDP by 2020. In developing policies to reduce cost growth, what do you think is an appropriate and realistic target to try to achieve by 2020?"

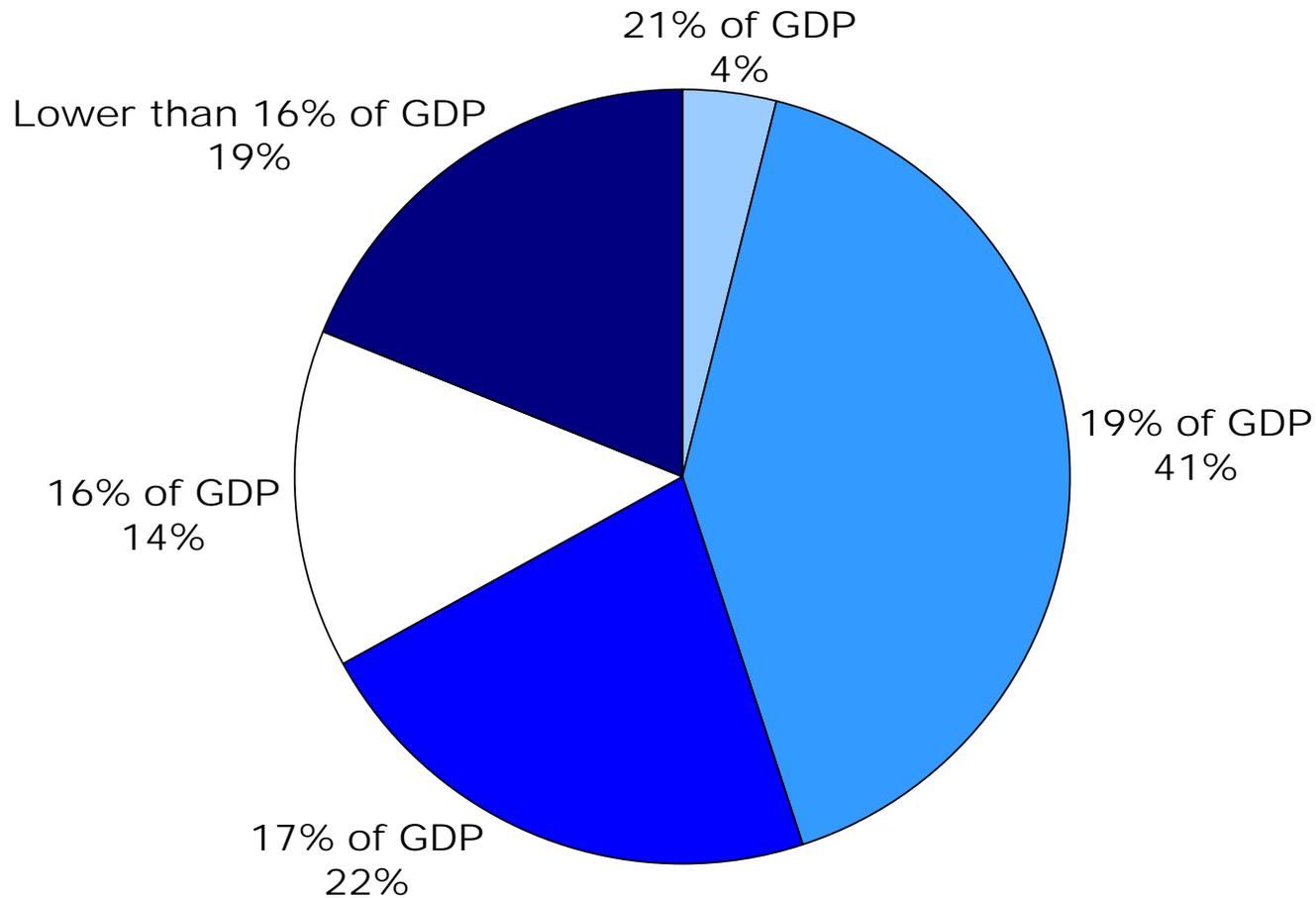


Figure 2. A majority of leaders think that the SGR should be replaced with fundamental payment reform.

“The Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) mechanism is a formula that was enacted by Congress to control Medicare physician spending growth by reducing fees when spending exceeds a target amount. In recent years, it has produced a series of scheduled across-the-board physician fee reductions that have been superseded by legislation. Policymakers have proposed modifying or eliminating the SGR mechanism, but that would result in higher Medicare spending and an increased federal budget deficit.

Please indicate which of the following statements about the SGR best describes your view.”

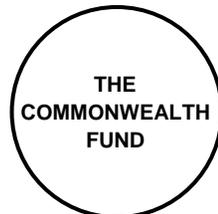
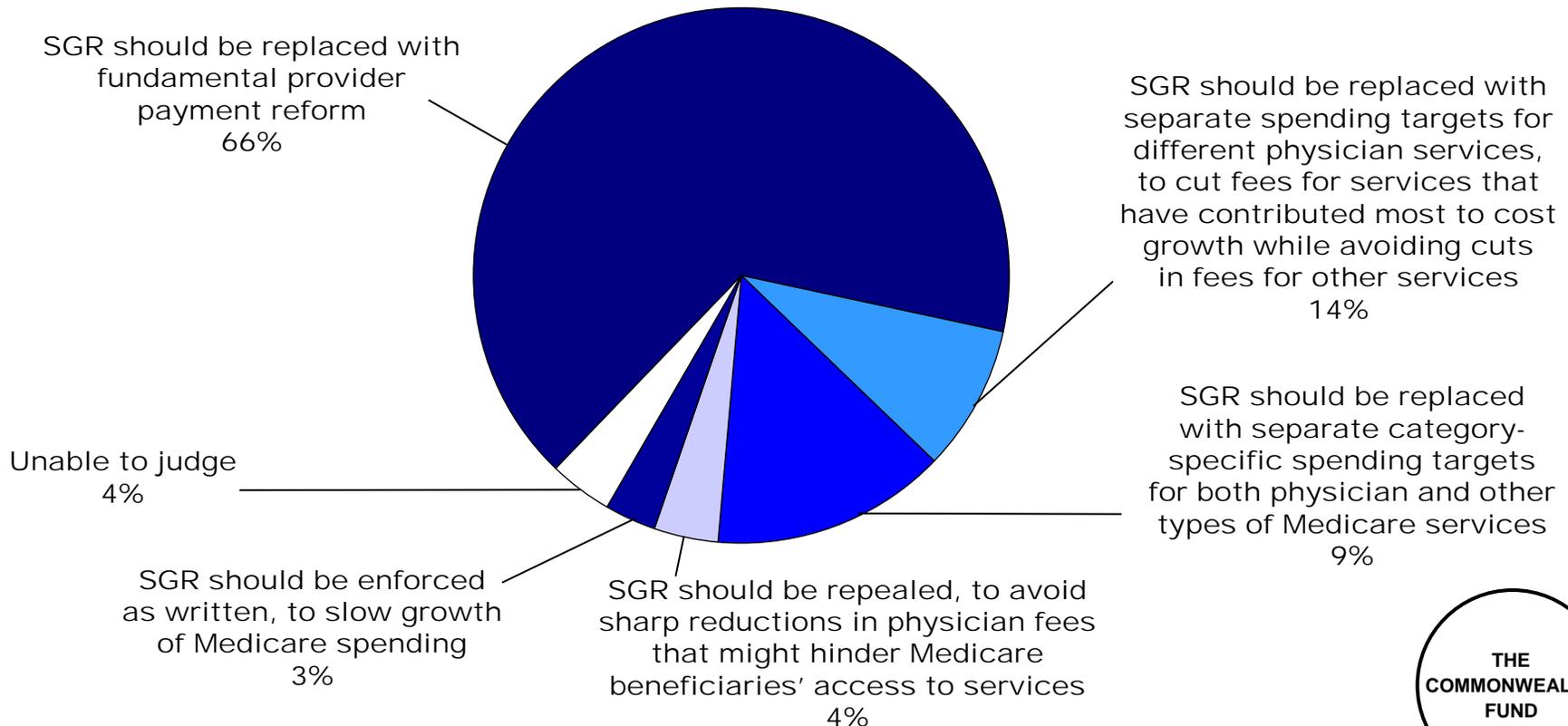
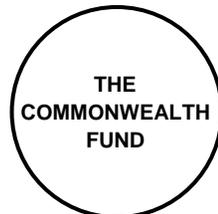
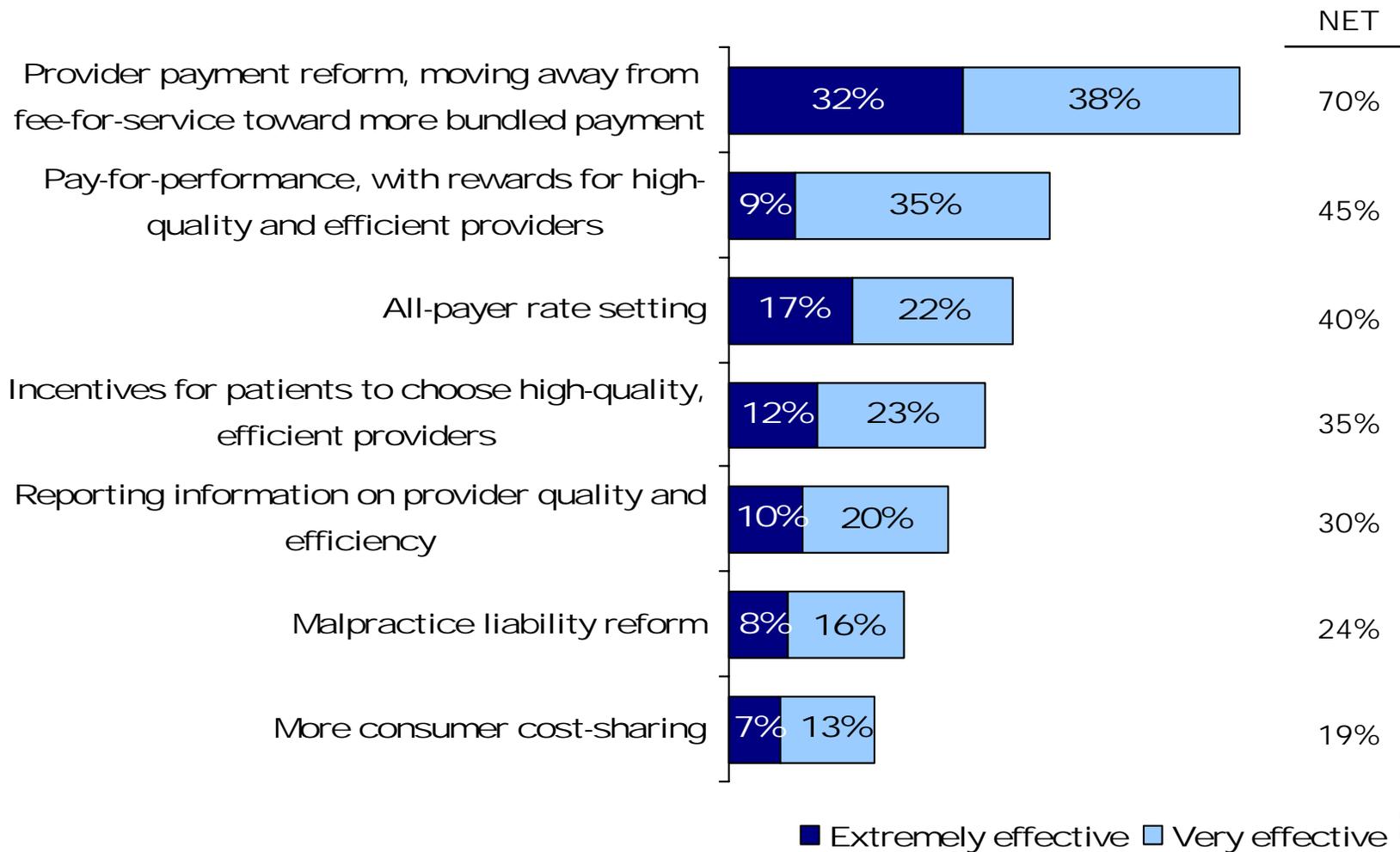


Figure 3. 70% of leaders think that moving toward bundled payment would be effective at controlling costs while maintaining quality.

“How effective do you think each of the following broad policy strategies would be in controlling costs while maintaining or improving quality?”



Source: Commonwealth Fund Health Care Opinion Leaders Survey, April 2009.

Figure 4. Most leaders support competitive bidding for medical equipment prices and negotiation of drug prices by Medicare.

“Medicare is the largest payer for health services in the United States. Total Medicare spending depends on both the prices charged for care and the amount of care provided.

Please indicate your level of support for each of the following strategies focused on the prices Medicare pays for health care.”

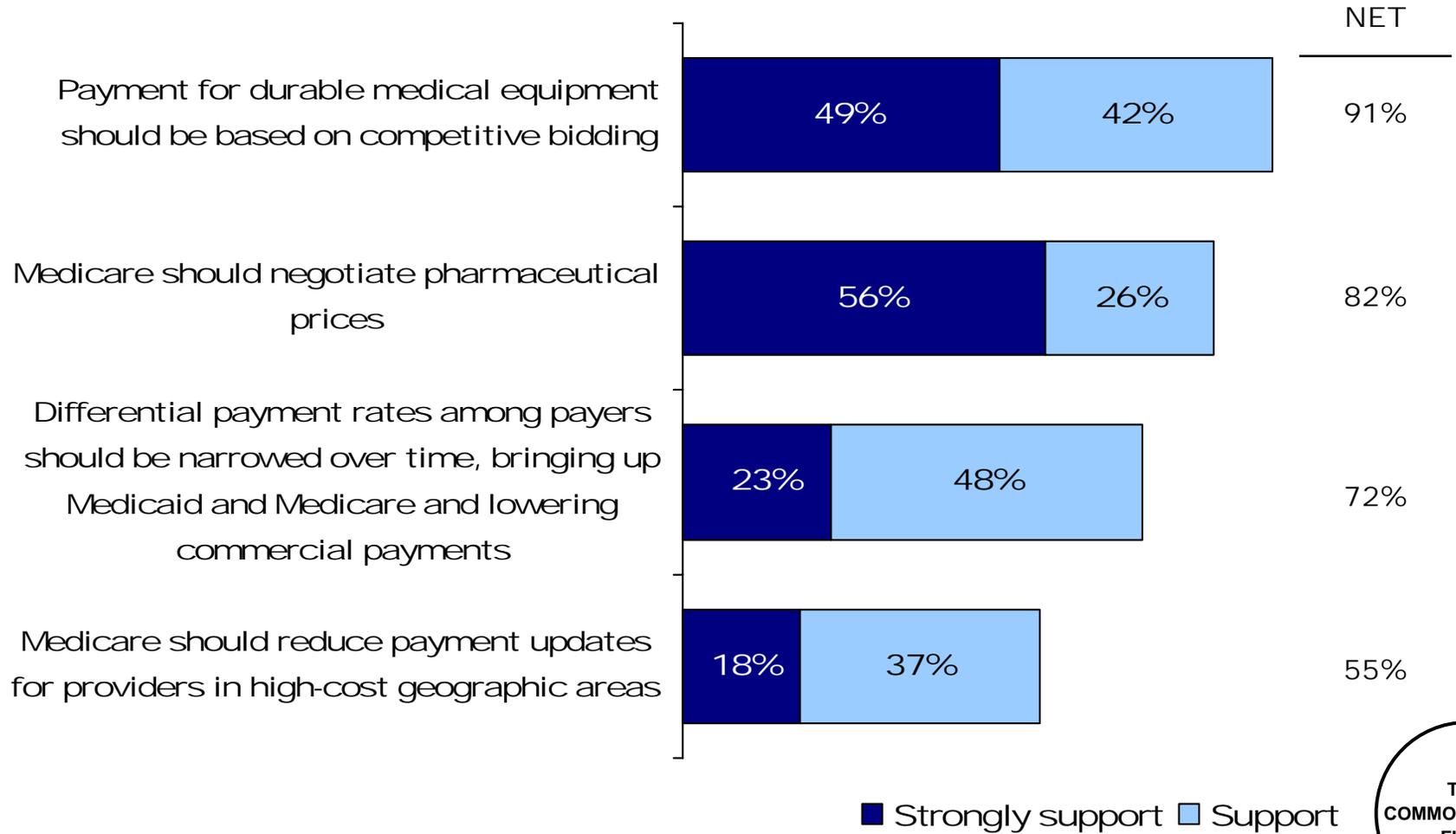


Figure 5. The large majority of leaders support reform options in President Obama's budget blueprint.

"The following is a list of specific policies that have recently been proposed as a means of slowing the rate of health care cost growth in Medicare. Please indicate your level of support for each of the following strategies."

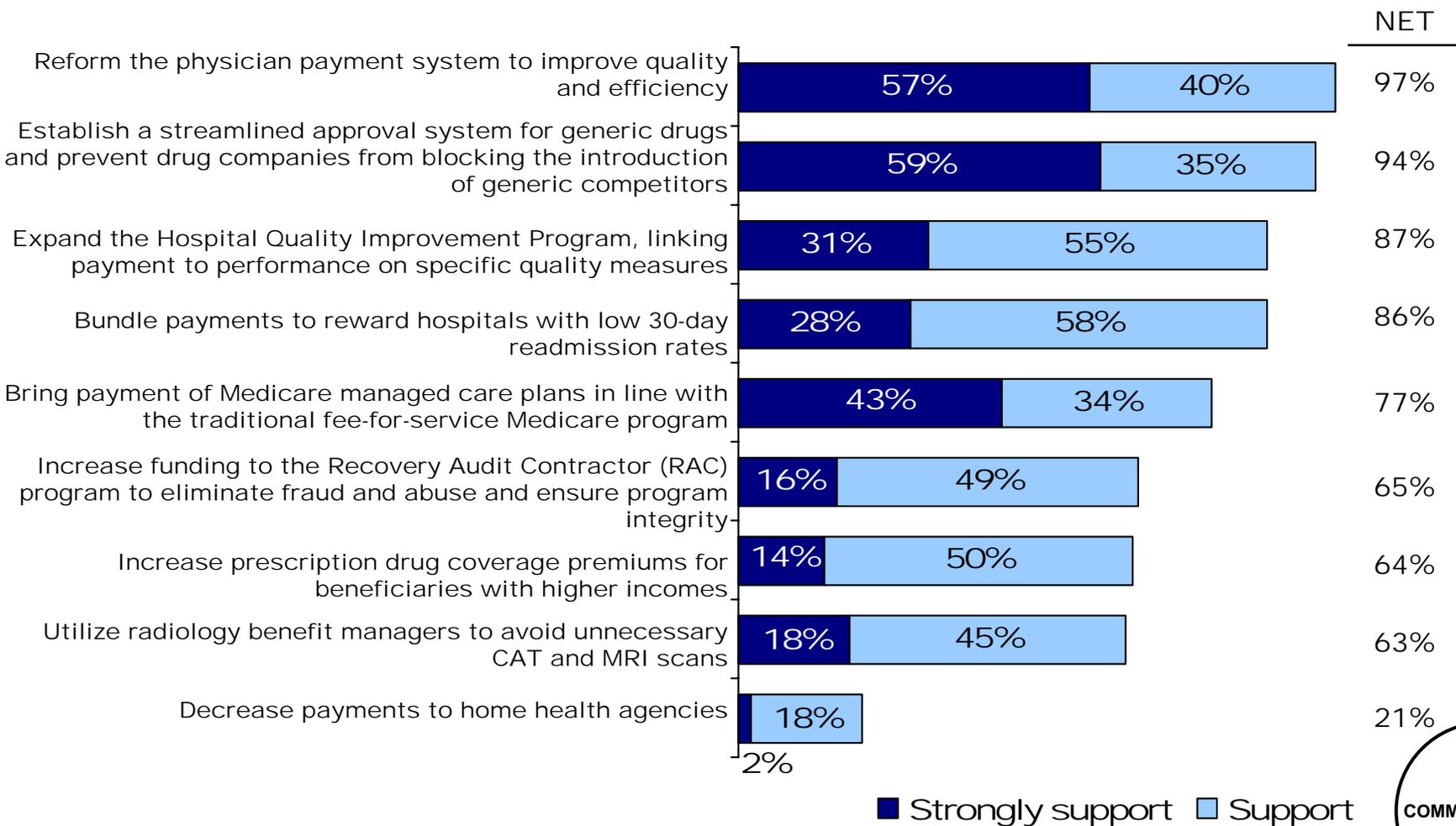


Figure 6. Prior authorization and patient cost-sharing are least likely to be seen as effective in reducing unnecessary care.

“How effective do you think each of the following approaches would be in reducing avoidable, duplicative, or unnecessary utilization of health care services?”

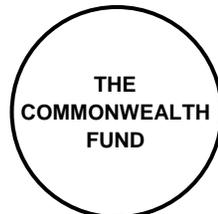
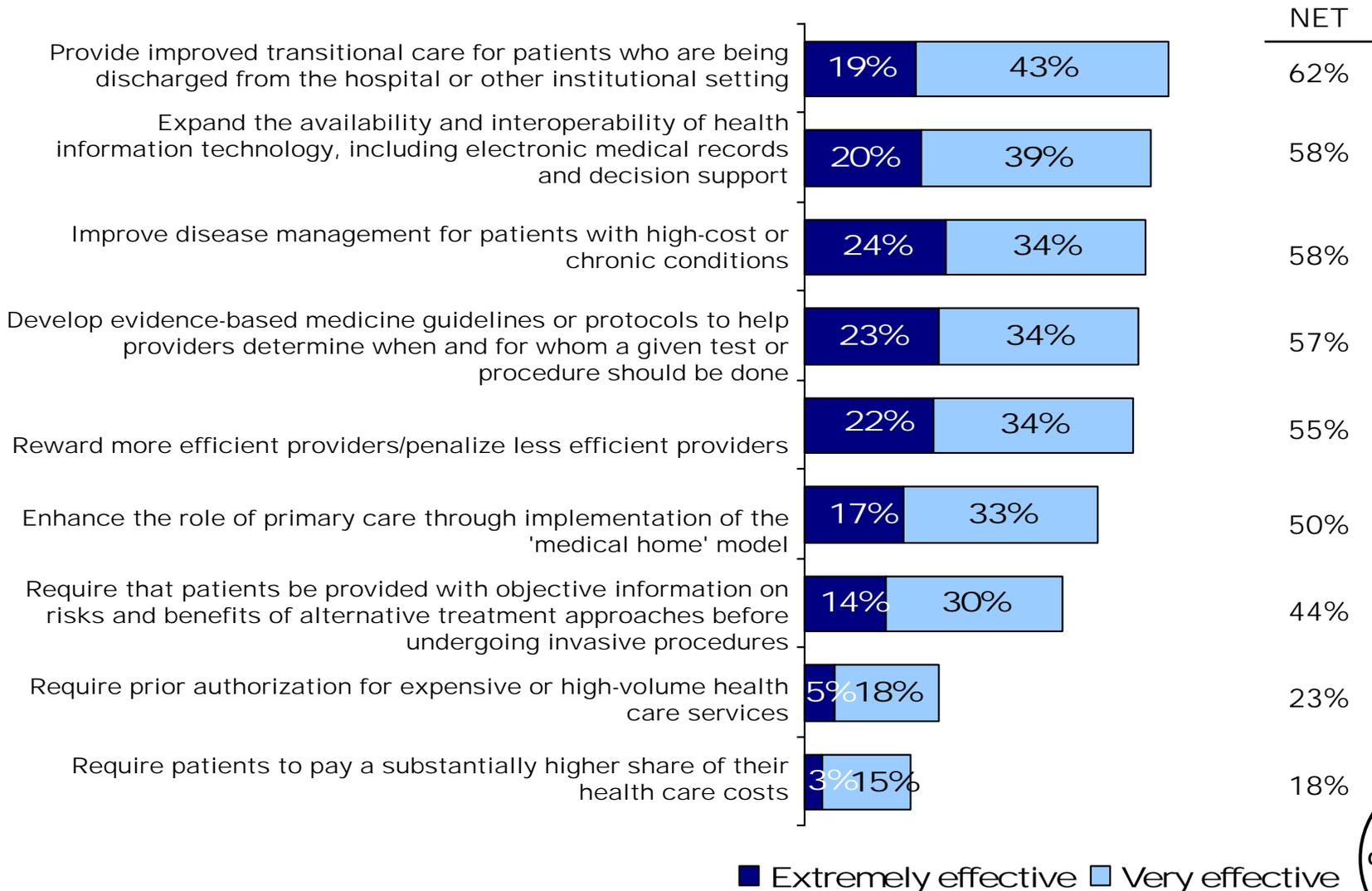
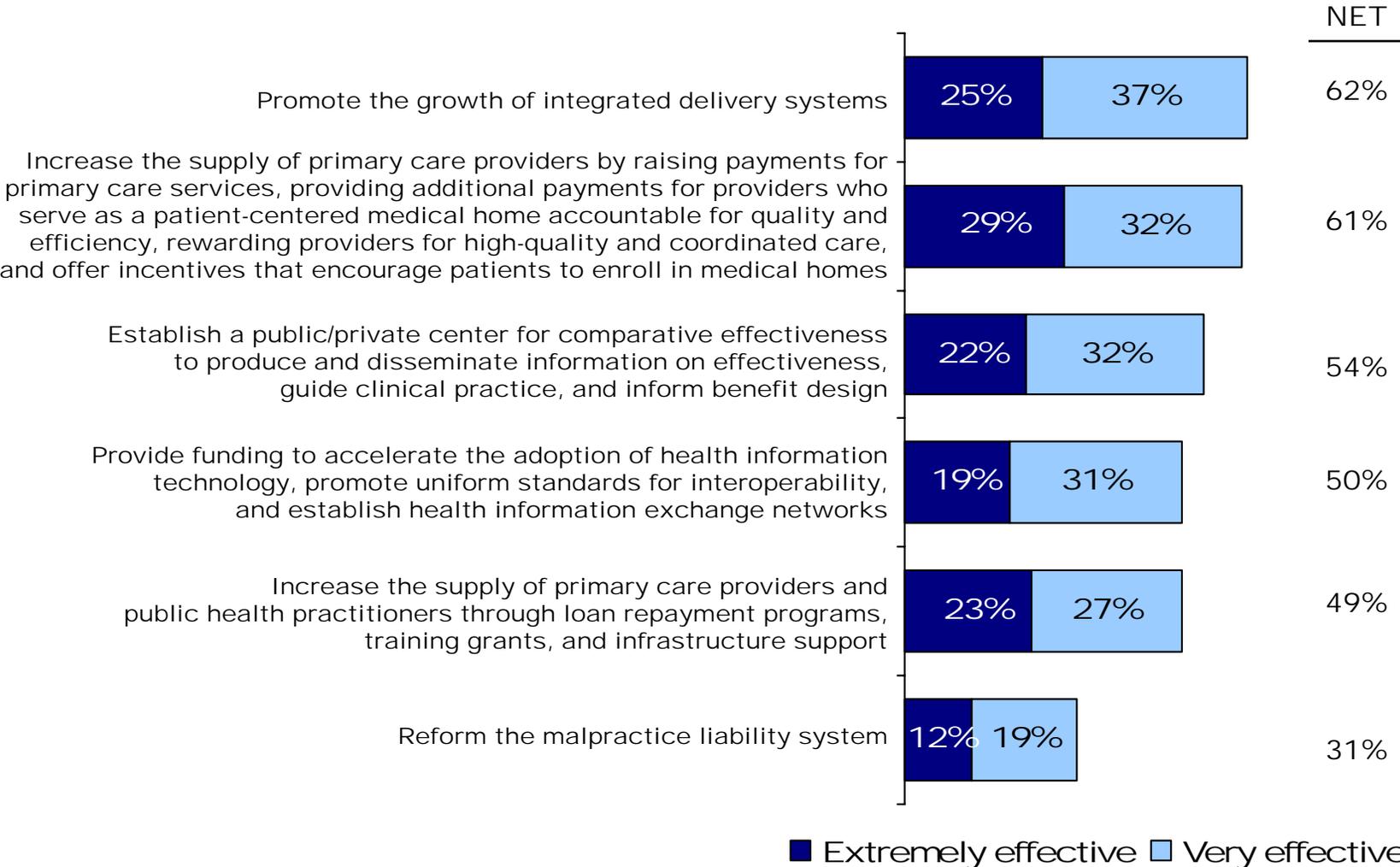


Figure 7. Promoting the growth of integrated delivery systems and increasing supply of PCPs through payment reform seen as most effective in reducing growth of health care costs.

“How effective do you think each of these proposals for structural change in health services markets would be in reducing the growth of health care costs?”



Source: Commonwealth Fund Health Care Opinion Leaders Survey, April 2009.