

POLL: 63% oppose Baird // Clinton lobbies senators

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Body

Zoe **Baird**, whose nomination as the nation's first female attorney general seem assured by the Senate a week ago, wouldn't be confirmed by the public today.

A USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup **Poll** Thursday shows **63%** of 600 people interviewed don't think she should be confirmed because of her admission that she knowingly hired two undocumented immigrants.

"Of course (the nomination) is in trouble," Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, D- Ill., one of the first two women on the Judiciary Committee, said Thursday.

The **poll** also found:

- 59% say her breach of immigration law undermines her ability to enforce the USA's laws; 33% disagree.
- More than half, 56%, say she felt herself above the law.
- 75% don't believe she was telling the truth about being unable to find qualified legal workers to fill the jobs.

The margin of error is 5%.

Another indication of trouble: **Senators** say calls and mail from constituents are running heavily against the nomination.

President **Clinton** continues to support her, but appears to be worried: He has phoned **senators** on her behalf.

And spokesman George Stephanopoulos said, "Right now, Zoe **Baird** is his nominee."

He said **Clinton** believes she will be an "excellent attorney general."

Baird insists she won't withdraw her nomination.

Several **senators** have voiced opposition, including Nancy Kassebaum, R- Kan., the Senate's lone Republican woman, who decided to **oppose** her with "deep regret."

Moseley-Braun, like many other members of the panel, said she's reserving judgment until the confirmation hearings conclude, likely next week.

Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, considered a possible swing vote, said her prospects for confirmation are "very much up in the air."

Committee questioning was expected to shift today to **Baird**'s husband, Yale law professor Paul Gewirtz.

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