



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Statement on the American Rescue Plan Randall Rutta, Chief Executive Officer

March 10, 2021

People with chronic diseases and disabilities have been disproportionately affected both by COVID-19 and the social and financial effects of the associated Public Health Emergency. The National Health Council (NHC) applauds President Biden and Congress for taking bold action to address the pandemic's impact. We applaud the increased access to health coverage and support for the nonprofit community in the American Rescue Plan.

The NHC and our [members](#) strongly and persistently advocate to ensure that all Americans have meaningful access to affordable, sustainable, and high-value health care. We are particularly encouraged by the enhanced insurance subsidies, which will give options to so many people who have lost their jobs or otherwise lack insurance. Because of this legislation, they can now either maintain their employer-sponsored coverage for free or purchase ACA Marketplace plans at better rates than ever before.

In addition, the nonprofit patient community has spent the past year tirelessly supporting people with chronic diseases and disabilities while dealing with lost revenue, an increased need for services, and other pressures. The expanded eligibility for Paycheck Protection Program and other loans in this and other recent legislation is a necessary lifeline to allow these organizations to meet their missions. We look forward to working with Congress and the Administration to implement this legislation to improve support for people with chronic diseases and disabilities.

###

*Created by and for patient organizations 100 years ago, the National Health Council (NHC) brings diverse organizations together to forge consensus and drive patient-centered health policy. We promote increased access to affordable, high-value, sustainable health care. Made up of more than 140 national health-related organizations and businesses, the NHC's core membership includes the nation's leading patient organizations. Other members include health-related associations and nonprofit organizations including the provider, research, and family caregiver communities; and businesses representing biopharmaceutical, device, diagnostic, generic drug, and payer organizations. Learn more at: <http://www.nationalhealthcouncil.org>.*

#### Contact:

Jennifer Schleman

[jschleman@nhcouncil.org](mailto:jschleman@nhcouncil.org)