



Access to Health Coverage Means Access to Care: Patient Groups Urge Congress to Include Affordability Measures in Next Legislative Package

May 6, 2021, WASHINGTON, D.C. – 32 organizations representing millions of people with pre-existing conditions urge Congress and the Administration to prioritize health care policies in the next legislative package.

“As organizations representing patients with serious and chronic conditions, we applaud the Administration’s efforts to expand access to affordable health coverage. Today, it is simply impossible for most people to afford health care without health insurance. Though the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) helped bring affordable health care to millions, more must be done. Quality and affordable health care remains out of reach for millions.

Consumers continue to grapple with the health and economic uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic. Patients face an urgent need for bold reforms to our health care system that will serve their needs not just for the duration of the pandemic – but for generations to come.

The Biden Administration and Congress must seize this unique moment and protect patients with pre-existing conditions in the next legislative package addressing health care. Our groups greatly appreciate the inclusion of advanced premium tax credits (APTCs) in the American Families Plan and continue to urge the Administration and Congress to take bold action on behalf of patients, including:

- Permanently codifying increased eligibility and generosity of APTCs;
- Limiting patients’ out-of-pocket health care costs;

- Addressing obstacles to affordable employer-sponsored coverage, including fixing the family glitch; and
- Strengthening Medicaid coverage, including expanding continuous eligibility.

These off-the-shelf policies have been thoroughly evaluated and are ready to go. It is time for policymakers to make the promise of affordable health care a reality.

Our organizations, and the patients we represent, are counting on Congress and the Administration to deliver on each of these much-needed policy reforms. We stand ready to work with policymakers and be allies in this much-needed work.

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Alpha-1 Foundation
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
 American Diabetes Association
 American Heart Association
 American Kidney Fund
 American Liver Foundation
 American Lung Association
 Arthritis Foundation
 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
 Cancer Support Community
 CancerCare
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
 Epilepsy Foundation
 Family Voices
 Hemophilia Federation of America
 Mended Hearts & Mended Little Hearts

Muscular Dystrophy Association
 National Alliance on Mental Illness
 National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
 National Health Council
 National Hemophilia Foundation
 National Kidney Foundation
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 National Organization for Rare Disorders
 National Patient Advocate Foundation
 Primary Immune Foundation
 Pulmonary Hypertension Association
 Susan G. Komen
 The AIDS Institute
 The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 United Way Worldwide
 WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease