On behalf of patients with serious and chronic health concerns, our 35 groups welcome and celebrate the Biden Administration’s new rule that will better protect patients from short-term, limited-duration health plans, a risky form of low-quality health coverage.

In 2018, a federal rule change—strongly opposed by our organizations—allowed for the proliferation of short-term health plans. Since that time, our organizations have repeatedly warned lawmakers about the risks these plans bring both to individual patients and the larger health coverage market.

The new rule will ensure that short-term health plans are used as they were originally intended: as short-term, stop-gap coverage while consumers are between other plans.

Marketed as an alternative to traditional health insurance, short-term plans are exempt from many important consumer protections. They often do not cover essential care, like prescription drugs or mental health services, and allow insurers to penalize consumers with pre-existing conditions and charge women more for their coverage. Further, these plans can utilize annual and lifetime coverage limits—leaving patients responsible for extraordinary costs. Due to deceptive marketing practices, consumers
often do not even know they’ve purchased a short-term plan until they attempt to use their coverage – only to discover its limitations. By then, it’s too late; they already face insurmountable medical bills.

As we celebrate 14 years of Affordable Care Act protections, it’s clear that patients now have access to far better and more affordable coverage and premiums. We expect the new rule to improve clarity for consumers and provide greater assurance about the quality of the health coverage they purchase.

We applaud the Biden Administration’s efforts and look forward to seeing the rule’s positive impact on patients.

ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
Lupus Foundation of America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Bleeding Disorders Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Eczema Association  
National Health Council  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
NMDP (formerly National Marrow Donor Program)  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

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