



**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