



National Patient Organizations Applaud Key Committees for Expanding Coverage, Improving Affordability

Legislation will increase access to adequate and affordable care for patients and their families

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 17, 2021 – Thirty patient and consumer organizations representing millions of people facing serious, acute, and chronic health conditions commend the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees for expanding access to adequate and affordable health care in reconciliation legislation this week.

“Our organizations applaud the Committees for including key provisions in legislation passed this week expanding access to quality and affordable coverage. The legislation permanently cements expanded advance premium tax credits (APTCs) and aligns the affordability of individual market insurance with employer sponsored insurance by re-setting the definition of affordability.

People with pre-existing conditions need access to adequate, affordable health insurance. The packages put forward by the committees this week significantly ease the cost burden for people who rely on the individual marketplace for coverage and will provide families peace of mind about the cost of their premiums.

The committees also provided a permanent solution for the 2.2 million adults that fall into the coverage gap in the 12 states that have failed to expand Medicaid eligibility. This important solution provides benefits tailored to the populations Medicaid serves and protects consumers with low incomes from out-of-pocket costs that may deter them from utilizing their coverage. Much needed policies addressing health disparities, such as coverage and care for postpartum women and continuous eligibility for children, were also included.

Our organizations thank the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees for advancing these policies that would have a real world, positive impact on patients. We now call on Congress to secure this investment in access to adequate and affordable health insurance by including these provisions in the final reconciliation bill and passing it without delay.”

American Lung Association
The AIDS Institute
Alpha-1 Foundation
ALS Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Cancer Support Community
Epilepsy Foundation
Hemophilia Federation of America
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
March of Dimes
The Mended Hearts, Inc.
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Patient Advocate Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Susan G. Komen
United Way Worldwide
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease