



### 38 Patient Groups Speak Out Against Recent Ruling in Texas v. US

*Ruling invalidates critical health care protections for millions of people with pre-existing conditions*

Washington, D.C., December 17, 2018—Following Friday’s ruling in the case of *Texas v. United States*, which found all of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to be unconstitutional, 38 patient groups issued the following statement:

Our organizations, which collectively represent millions of patients, are disturbed by the troubling ruling that invalidates the entirety of the Affordable Care Act. This ruling eliminates the critical protections for people with pre-existing conditions who need adequate, accessible, and affordable health care to live longer, healthier lives.

In eliminating the ACA penalty for individuals who are not insured, Congress did not intend that individuals could once again be charged more or denied coverage for their health conditions, face limits on their care, be rejected entirely by health insurers, or be subject once again to

annual and lifetime coverage caps. The implications of this decision are serious for both the insurance markets and the millions of people who rely on them.

It is important for patients and consumers to realize that current law remains in place pending appeal. People who have purchased health care for 2019 from [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) will remain covered, and the millions of Americans who have coverage through Medicaid expansion will also remain covered.

Our communities know the importance of insurance coverage and are all too familiar with the harm that will come if insurers were to return to coverage and pricing practices that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions and fail to cover the services they need.

When the ruling is appealed, we hope that the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit will protect health care for people with chronic diseases.

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Adult Congenital Heart Association  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Cancer Support Community  
COPD Foundation  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
Futures Without Violence  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
JDRF

The Kennedy Forum  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
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  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
United Ostomy Associations of America  
United Way Worldwide  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease