

June 23, 2023

Dear Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

We the undersigned 80 organizations representing patients, communities, and constituents across the commonwealth, urge you to support House Bill 1050, the Health Insurance Preventive Services Coverage Act.

Preventative care is a common-sense, proven, and cost-effective tool to keep Pennsylvanians healthy. Preventative care can detect serious diseases early or prevent them altogether, ensure that mothers and their children survive pregnancy and grow healthy and strong, and is a key component of treating mental health and other conditions.

The federal Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. § 300gg-13) requires health insurance coverage of preventive services at no cost to the patient. A federal district judge in Texas recently struck down the requirement to cover certain preventative care services recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). The judge's ruling is currently being appealed, but if it is upheld, patients may have to pay out-of-pocket for preventative care services that were previously offered at no cost. This may cause patients to put off or forgo potentially lifesaving care or to develop unnecessary and harmful medical complications.

Changes to the availability of no-cost preventive services would impact nearly all Pennsylvanians. Of the recommended USPSTF preventative services that are part of the requirement struck down in the ruling, an estimated 30% are services for children and adolescents, 30% are services for older adults and seniors, and 40% are services for women and pregnant individuals. Nearly one in three of the recommended screenings, interventions, and medications address chronic or life-threatening conditions, including cancer. One in five treat behavioral or mental health conditions. One in six improve maternal health.

In Pennsylvania, 6.2 million people currently have private health coverage that covers preventive services at no cost to them, including 1.4 million children. Additionally, 2.8 million older adults on Medicare benefit from no-cost preventative care services. Without state action, many of these Pennsylvanians may face an unnecessary burden accessing preventative services.

Recently, House Insurance Committee Chairman Kevin Boyle introduced House Bill 1050, which would update state law to incorporate coverage of recommended preventive care without cost-sharing in a manner consistent with current federal law in state-regulated health plans, including large and small group employer plans, CHIP, and individual Pennie plans. Ensuring uniformity in the Pennsylvania-regulated health insurance market minimizes industry uncertainty and patient confusion and will mitigate the potential harmful patient impact of the recent ruling.

Preventative care works. It not only saves lives and increases longevity, but it ultimately saves money by avoiding costly treatments later. We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support

House Bill 1050 in order to continue important protections - and the peace of mind they bring - for children, older adults, women, pregnant individuals, those at risk of chronic disease, and nearly everyone in Pennsylvania.

Should you have any questions, please contact Patrick Keenan with the Pennsylvania Health Access Network at patrick@pahealthaccess.org or at (717) 322-5332. Thank you.

Sincerely,

AccessMatters
Action Wellness
Allies for Children
Allies for Health + Wellbeing
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
Art As Social Inquiry
Arthritis Foundation
Autism Speaks
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition
Cancer Support Community
Child Guidance Resource Centers
Child Space Centers
Children First
Christian Concern Communities
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation Eastern Pennsylvania
Family Services of Montgomery County, PA
Foundation for Health Equity
Free Clinic Association of Pennsylvania
Health, Education, and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership (HELP: MLP)
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hep B United Philadelphia
Hepatitis B Foundation
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Indochinese American Council
Latino Health Collective

Legal Clinic for the Disabled
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Liberty Resources
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
Maternity Care Coalition
Mental Health Association of NWPA
Mental Health Partnerships
Merakey
NAMI Keystone PA
NAMI Main Line PA
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Psoriasis Foundation
Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line
New Directions Treatment Services
PA Association of Nonprofit Organizations
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
PA Coalition for Oral Health
PA Connecting Communities
PA Council of Children, Youth & Family Services
PA Health Funders Collaborative
Partnership for Better Health
Patrician Society
Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR)
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association (PMHCA)
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pennsylvania Rural Health Association

Public Health Management Corporation
(PHMC)
Rehabilitation & Community Providers
Association (RCPA)
Resources For Human Development
SEIU Healthcare PA
Shiloh Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sisters of Saint Francis - Justice, Peace and
Integrity of Creation Committee
Social Justice Indivisible
Southwest Community Development
Corporation
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh
The Hope and Help Network
The Open Link
Trinity Lutheran Church
United States of Care
VNA Community Services
Western Region Community Support
Program
Why Not Prosper
Women Against Abuse
Women's Law Project