



## Patient organizations applaud critical healthcare reforms

WASHINGTON, D.C. – 19 organizations representing millions of people with pre-existing conditions applaud the much-needed protections outlined below that are contained in the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Enhancement Act.

The organizations released the following statement:

“We appreciate the House’s work to ensure access for patients at this critical moment. Today, patients face a triple threat: the recession, the pandemic, and ongoing efforts to undermine protections for those with pre-existing conditions.

The additional protections for people with pre-existing conditions in this legislation are sorely needed, particularly at this time when patients and consumers are grappling with the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts. If passed, these protections would help more people access and afford health care coverage and services.

This legislation provides essential supports to the millions who face economic uncertainty. For example, it ensures middle-class individuals and families have improved access to affordable health insurance by expanding eligibility for tax credits. It also provides increased federal funding to expand Medicaid so the program can serve the needs of people living in all states, including those living with pre-existing conditions.

The bill also reverses the administration’s dangerous expansion of short-term, limited duration health plans, which discriminate against millions of people with pre-existing conditions. These plans – which many consumers don’t fully understand – typically fail to cover even the most basic needed components of health care. Just last week, the House released [a report](#) outlining the many misleading and discriminatory practices short-term plan issuers use to enroll individuals in sub-standard insurance. These plans were deeply problematic before the pandemic, and they’re especially dangerous now, as millions of people who have lost employer-provided health insurance search for options.

The reforms included in Title I and Title II help provide critical progress and assurances that better serve millions of people with pre-existing conditions, particularly as individuals and families across the country face uncertainty during this trying time.”

ALS Association

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Kidney Fund

American Liver Foundation

American Lung Association

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Hemophilia Federation of America

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

March of Dimes

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Hemophilia Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Patient Advocate Foundation

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Susan G. Komen

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease