



**Statement by 17 Patient, Consumer, and Provider Organizations**  
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### **Senate Finance Committee Hearing to Consider the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal**

Our organizations stand together in unified opposition to the legislation being considered by the Senate Finance Committee today. This proposal to overhaul our nation's health care system fails to serve the needs of the millions of patients and consumers we represent.

A group of patient, provider, and consumer groups came together earlier this year to engage with Congress in order to ensure that Members understand how any legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act would impact the individuals and families we represent. We agreed that in order to gain our support, any proposal put forward must meet a core set of criteria by providing care that is accessible, affordable, and adequate. It is clear that the legislation before the Senate Finance Committee today falls far short of meeting these standards and would in fact do more harm than good. We stand united in opposition to the proposal put forward by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Ron Johnson (R-WI) because of the negative consequences it will have for patients' access to adequate and affordable health care coverage.

This bill would drastically cut funding for the Medicaid program, roll back important essential health benefit protections, reverse current protections that ensure coverage for people with preexisting conditions, open the door to lifetime caps on coverage, and endanger access to critical care for millions of Americans. Much of the proposal is just a repackaging of the most problematic provisions of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which we also opposed.

On Friday, the Brookings Institution, a trusted independent and non-partisan organization, released a report estimating that 21 million fewer people will be covered from 2020-2026. This unprecedented loss of coverage is completely unacceptable.

Affordable, adequate care is *vital* to the patients we represent and can mean the difference between life and death. It is clear to our organizations that this legislation fails to provide Americans with what they need to maintain their health. Our organizations, instead, strongly support improving our system of care through a rigorous and transparent bipartisan legislative process. It is time for Congress to put the interest of patients and consumers before politics. The Graham-Cassidy proposal will have devastating impacts on those we represent and we urge every member of the Senate to oppose this legislation.

ALS Association

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association

Arthritis Foundation

Consumers Union

Crohns & Colitis Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Family Voices

Lutheran Services in America

March of Dimes

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Health Council

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease