



March 22, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
 Chairman  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
 Chairwoman, Health Subcommittee  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 272 Cannon House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
 Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee  
 Committee on Energy and Commerce  
 2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515

**Statement for the Record**

“Building on the ACA: Legislation to Expand Health Coverage and Lower Costs”

The 28 undersigned organizations represent millions of patients and consumers who face serious, acute, and chronic health conditions. We have a unique perspective on what individuals and families need to prevent disease, cure illness, and manage chronic health conditions. The diversity of our organizations and the populations we serve enable us to draw upon a wealth of knowledge and expertise that we believe are critical components of any discussion aimed at improving or reforming our system of healthcare.

In early 2017, our organizations agreed upon three principles that we use to help guide our work to continue to develop, improve upon, or defend the healthcare programs and services our communities need to live longer, healthier lives. These principles state that: (1) healthcare must be adequate, meaning that healthcare coverage should cover treatments patients need; (2) healthcare should be affordable, enabling patients to access the treatments they need to live healthy and productive lives; and (3) healthcare should be accessible, meaning that coverage should be easy to understand and not pose a barrier to care.

Today marks the 11th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. The passage of the ACA resulted in drastic reductions of our nation's uninsured rate and expanded coverage to millions of patients with pre-existing conditions. Our organizations strongly supported the steps to improve access to quality and affordable coverage in the American Rescue Plan, and we support the Committee's continued work on key policies that impact patients with serious and chronic health conditions, including:

- Establishing federal reinsurance program to reduce premium costs for consumers,
- Limiting the proliferation of short-term, limited-duration plans,
- Strengthening and expanding outreach and enrollment resources for consumers,
- Fixing the premium adjustment factor,
- Strengthening network adequacy standards in the ACA marketplaces and beyond,
- Expanding continuous eligibility and streamlining enrollment in Medicaid,
- Strengthening the Children's Health Insurance Program, and
- Expanding access to care for historically marginalized communities, including by addressing Medicaid funding for the territories and strengthening the Indian Health Service.

We look forward to continuing to work with Congress to improve upon the advancements made by the Affordable Care Act to expand affordable, accessible and adequate healthcare coverage for patients.

Alpha-1 Foundation	Hemophilia Federation of America
ALS Association	Lutheran Services in America
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Muscular Dystrophy Association
American Heart Association	National Alliance on Mental Illness
American Kidney Fund	National Health Council
American Lung Association	National Hemophilia Foundation
Arthritis Foundation	National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	National Organization for Rare Disorders
Cancer Support Community	National Patient Advocate Foundation
CancerCare	Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	Susan G. Komen
Epilepsy Foundation	The AIDS Institute
Family Voices	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
	United Way Worldwide
	WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease