



## Senate Health Care Bill Would Not Sufficiently Protect Patients with Pre-Existing Conditions

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 4, 2018 — *More than 25 patient and consumer groups representing millions of people with pre-existing health conditions issued the following statement regarding S. 3388, the Ensuring Coverage for Patients with Pre-Existing Conditions Act introduced on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018.*

“Our organizations are pleased that the sponsors of this legislation recognize the importance of protecting access to health insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. Like the bill’s drafters, we acknowledge that the *Texas v. U.S.* lawsuit poses a real threat to the millions of patients and consumers with serious and chronic conditions represented by our organizations. Americans need access to affordable and adequate healthcare coverage to manage and maintain their health. We are encouraged that the sponsors of this bill recognize that Congressional action will be needed to address the damaging impact on our patients if the court invalidates vital protections in current law.

“We appreciate that this legislation would prohibit the denial of coverage and rating based on health status. However, it would not ban pre-existing condition exclusions and would remove rating restrictions based on age, gender, tobacco use, or occupation. This means that many individuals could still face higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs and, even if enrollees paid the increased premiums for many months, they could still be denied benefits because of a pre-existing condition. In short, this bill would not replace critical protections in current law if the court rules unfavorably for patients and consumers in *Texas v. U.S.* This is not acceptable for the patients we represent.

“Patients and their families rely on the comprehensive protections included in the Affordable Care Act to access important, life-sustaining and life-improving health care. Our groups remain committed to working with Congress to ensure that any legislation promising to protect people with pre-existing conditions meet the principles set by our organizations that guarantee that health care is affordable, adequate and accessible – no matter the ultimate outcome of this lawsuit.”

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Adult Congenital Heart Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
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  
Susan G. Komen  
United Way Worldwide  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease