



### 30 Patient Organizations Oppose Legislation Threatening Healthcare for Millions of Patients

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 24, 2023) – This week, the House of Representatives is expected to consider legislation that would add so-called “work requirements” to the Medicaid program. Due to the disastrous impact this would have on access to Medicaid, which provides coverage for almost a hundred million individuals, 30 patient advocacy organizations released the following statement, urging lawmakers to vote no:

“Our organizations strongly oppose legislation adding a work, or community engagement, requirement policy to the Medicaid program. This legislation is a clear attack on access to quality and affordable healthcare with particularly devastating consequences for patients with serious, acute and chronic illnesses. We urge Congress to reject this bill.

“To be clear: these requirements are not about work, they are about paperwork, and otherwise-eligible patients will lose coverage when they get caught up in this bureaucratic red tape. In 2018, Arkansas imposed this paperwork requirement on people enrolled in Medicaid. Before a federal court halted the state’s efforts, more than 18,000 individuals who were otherwise eligible for Medicaid lost their healthcare in just seven months due to onerous paperwork requirements and additional bureaucracy. The coverage losses would be even more severe on a national scale, applying to individuals enrolled in both traditional Medicaid and Medicaid expansion.

“The ‘exemptions’ in this legislation are wholly insufficient to protect patients. The criteria in the House legislation are even narrower and more extreme than those used in Arkansas: more older adults are included and people who are medically frail would need a medical professional to verify an exemption. The intricacies of deciding who is and is not able to work is outside of the scope of most medical providers and can be very complex decisions. Additionally, exemption processes inherently create opportunities for administrative errors that jeopardize patients’ access to care. No exemption criteria can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

“The House legislation impacts all Medicaid eligibility groups and places an enormous administrative burden on state Medicaid programs at a time when they are already restarting redeterminations for the first time since 2020. By eliminating the federal match for individuals not in compliance, the legislation leaves no doubt that states would take away coverage from millions of individuals and result in significantly worsened health outcomes.

“Our organizations strongly oppose this bill due to the devastating impact it would have on health coverage and urge members to vote no on this and any other legislation that jeopardizes access to Medicaid.”

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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association  
ALS Association  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Lupus Foundation of America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Eczema Association  
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  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association`  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
WomenHeart