



## Sixteen Patient and Provider Groups Oppose Graham/Cassidy Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 18, 2017 — Sixteen patient and provider groups oppose the proposal put forward by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Dean Heller (R-Nev.), and Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) that will negatively impact patients' access to adequate and affordable health coverage and care.

This bill would limit funding for the Medicaid program, roll back important essential health benefit protections, and potentially open the door to annual and lifetime caps on coverage, endangering access to critical care for millions of Americans. Our organizations urge senators to oppose this legislation.

Affordable, adequate care is *vital* to the patients we represent. This legislation fails to provide Americans with what they need to maintain their health. In fact, much of the proposal just repackages the problematic provisions of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), which we opposed. Fortunately, the BCRA was voted down by Congress earlier this year.

Our organizations, instead, strongly support the bipartisan hearings spearheaded by Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, and by

Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) in the Senate Finance Committee. These hearings, focused on market stabilization and other critical issues, represent a modest, yet promising first step towards addressing our nation's health care challenges. Bipartisan agreement on the Children's Health Insurance Program also represents a welcome return to regular order, and we applaud the committees for undertaking this critical work.

We urge Congress to continue this important bipartisan effort rather than advancing proposals that would weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve. We stand ready to work with both sides of the aisle to build long-lasting bipartisan solutions both now and in the future.

Signers:

ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Family Voices  
JDRF  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
National Health Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Diseases  
Volunteers of America  
WomenHeart

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