Patient Groups Speak Out Against Recent Ruling in Texas v. US

*Ruling invalidates critical health care protections for millions of people with pre-existing conditions*

Washington, D.C., December, 17 2018—Following Friday’s ruling in the case of Texas v. United States, which found all of the Affordable Care Act to be unconstitutional, 38 patient groups issued the following statement:

“Our organizations, which collectively represent millions of patients, are disturbed by the troubling ruling that invalidates the entirety of the Affordable Care Act. This ruling eliminates the critical protections for people with pre-existing conditions who need adequate, accessible and affordable health care to live longer, healthier lives.

“In eliminating the ACA penalty for individuals who are not insured, Congress did not intend that individuals could once again be charged more or denied coverage for their health conditions, face limits...
on their care, be rejected entirely by health insurers, or be subject once again to annual and lifetime coverage caps. The implications of this decision are serious for both the insurance markets and the millions of people who rely on them.

“It is important for patients and consumers to realize that current law remains in place pending appeal. People who have purchased healthcare for 2019 from healthcare.gov will remain covered, and the millions of Americans who have coverage through Medicaid expansion will also remain covered.

“Our communities know the importance of insurance coverage and are all too familiar with the harm that will come if insurers were to return to coverage and pricing practices that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions and fail to cover the services they need.

“When the ruling is appealed, we hope that the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit will protect health care for people with chronic diseases.”

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Adult Congenital Heart Foundation  JDRF
Alpha-1 Foundation  Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
ALS Association  Lutheran Services in America
American Diabetes Association  March of Dimes
American Heart Association  Muscular Dystrophy Association
American Liver Foundation  National Alliance on Mental Illness
American Lung Association  National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
Arthritis Foundation  National Health Council
Cancer Support Community  National Hemophilia Foundation
COPD Foundation  National Kidney Foundation
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation  National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  National Organization for Rare Disorders
Epilepsy Foundation  National Patient Advocate Foundation
Family Voices  National Psoriasis Foundation
Futures Without Violence  Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Global Healthy Living Foundation  Susan G. Komen
Hemophilia Federation of America  The Kennedy Forum
Immune Deficiency Foundation  United Ostomy Associations of America
United Way Worldwide  WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease