



## Patient organizations applaud strong actions to protect people with pre-existing conditions

WASHINGTON, D.C. – 33 organizations representing millions of people with pre-existing conditions applauded the much-needed patient protections in two of Executive Orders issued by President Biden on January 28.

The organizations released the following statement:

“President Biden’s actions this week represent a significant first step towards improving access to high-quality health coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. After facing years of challenges and increased barriers to care, the patients we serve welcome these measures announced yesterday to secure the health of our country during a time of great need.

We applaud the Administration’s decision to open a special enrollment period so that millions of patients and consumers, who have been hard hit by the dual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn, can enroll in high-quality health insurance coverage.

These executive orders also make strides in unwinding the policies that have blocked some patients’ access to the Medicaid program, including work requirements. Medicaid has been a coverage lifeline for low-income Americans for decades but has recently been subject to policies that restrict access and

undermine coverage. We've long opposed those restrictions, but they are particularly misguided during the pandemic.

Today's announcements represent the first of what we hope are many improvements aimed at better serving the millions of people with pre-existing conditions. Together, we look forward to continuing this work with the Administration and Congress to ensure all patients have access to affordable and adequate insurance coverage."

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Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action  
Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Kidney Fund  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Cancer Support Community  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
March of Dimes  
Mended Hearts & Mended Little Hearts  
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  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
United Way Worldwide  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for  
Women with Heart Disease