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Legislation will increase access to adequate and affordable care for patients and their families

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 17, 2021 – Thirty patient and consumer organizations representing millions of people facing serious, acute, and chronic health conditions commend the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees for expanding access to adequate and affordable health care in reconciliation legislation this week.

"Our organizations applaud the Committees for including key provisions in legislation passed this week expanding access to quality and affordable coverage. The legislation permanently cements expanded advance premium tax credits (APTCs) and aligns the affordability of individual market insurance with employer sponsored insurance by re-setting the definition of affordability.

People with pre-existing conditions need access to adequate, affordable health insurance. The packages put forward by the committees this week significantly ease the cost burden for people who rely on the individual marketplace for coverage and will provide families peace of mind about the cost of their premiums.

The committees also provided a permanent solution for the 2.2 million adults that fall into the coverage gap in the 12 states that have failed to expand Medicaid eligibility. This important solution provides benefits tailored to the populations Medicaid serves and protects consumers with low incomes from out-of-pocket costs that may deter them from utilizing their coverage. Much needed policies addressing health disparities, such as coverage and care for postpartum women and continuous eligibility for children, were also included.

Our organizations thank the Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees for advancing these policies that would have a real world, positive impact on patients. We now call on Congress to secure this investment in access to adequate and affordable health insurance by including these provisions in the final reconciliation bill and passing it without delay."

American Lung Association The AIDS Institute Alpha-1 Foundation **ALS Association** American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network American Diabetes Association American Heart Association American Kidney Fund American Liver Foundation **Arthritis Foundation** Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America **Cancer Support Community Epilepsy Foundation** Hemophilia Federation of America The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society March of Dimes The Mended Hearts, Inc. Muscular Dystrophy Association National Alliance on Mental Illness 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 Pulmonary Hypertension Association Susan G. Komen United Way Worldwide

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease