



**Patient Organizations Applaud Release of Affordable Care Act Rule to Protect All Patients from Discrimination When Accessing Health Care**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., April 26, 2024** — Patient groups applaud the newly released final rule on Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that will strengthen non-discrimination protections in health care. Together, the 32 undersigned organizations issue the following statement:

“Our organizations, which represent hundreds of millions of patients and consumers facing serious, acute, and chronic health conditions across the country, thank the Department of Health and Human Services for taking this significant step to protect all patients from discrimination with the new Section 1557 final rule.

This new rule reinstates protections for everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in covered health programs and activities, consistent with statutory intent and case law.

Everyone should have access to the health care they need in a timely manner and without fear of discrimination. People with serious and chronic conditions are more likely to visit hospitals and doctors’ offices for treatment with these important protections in place. If they fear discrimination, they may delay or avoid care, which leads to worse health outcomes and higher costs for both the patient and the health care system.

We are proud to support this rule as an important step towards health equity for all.”

ALS Association

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Kidney Fund

American Lung Association

Arthritis Foundation

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Cancer Support Community

CancerCare

Child Neurology Foundation

Chronic Disease Coalition

Chron’s & Colitis Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research

Hemophilia Federation of America

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Lupus Foundation of America

Muscular Dystrophy Association

NMDP (National Marrow Donor Program)

National Bleeding Disorders Foundation

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

National Eczema Association

National Health Council

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  
The Mended Hearts, Inc.  
WomenHeart