



## Patient Groups Urge Caution Around Disruptions to Critical Safety-Net Programs

Drastic Changes to Essential Services Could Have Devastating Impact on Patient Health and Well-Being

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 1, 2025) – In February, the Offices of Personnel Management (OPM) and Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo directing agencies to draft plans for large-scale reductions-in-force (RIFs) by mid-April and agencies have already begun laying off significant numbers of staff. Patient groups representing millions of people with serious health conditions issue the following statement:

“Disruptions to social safety-net programs including Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and others, can have a devastating impact on patients with chronic illnesses who depend on these services to access specialized care, financial support, and other necessary resources. Our organizations are deeply concerned that a call for rapid and large-scale reductions-in-force (RIFs) across government agencies, which is already underway in some divisions, has the potential to undermine program operations that are lifelines for the patients we represent.

We urge the administration to consider the long-term impacts and lasting harm to patients that could come from implementation of these proposed changes. We recognize the need to ensure programs operate efficiently and taxpayer dollars are spent wisely; however, this cannot come at the expense of access to critical government services patients rely on to manage their serious, sometimes life-threatening conditions.

For instance, for people who can no longer work due to a related health condition, like cystic fibrosis, disruptions to safety-net program operations may result in the patients' inability to afford basic essentials like food, housing, or access to their critical treatments. For people living with multiple sclerosis, timely enrollment in Medicaid is vital for getting health care. Staff reductions that delay the enrollment process could jeopardize their access to essential medications and could be devastating to their long-term health.

These patients and others living with cancer, asthma, blood disorders, and other serious health conditions rely on social safety-net programs to maintain their health and well-being. To move forward with large-scale RIFs without appropriate caution and safeguards would put patients at risk. We urge the administration to put patients first and minimize disruption to the essential government programs that our communities need.”

AiArthritis  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Kidney Fund  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
Lutheran Services in America  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Bleeding Disorders Foundation  
National Health Council  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society