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THE AIDS INSTITUTE



May 21, 2024

Majority Leader Schumer United States Senate Hart Senate Office Building, SH- 322 Washington, DC 20510

Speaker of the House Johnson United States House of Representatives Cannon House Office Building, CHOB-568 Washington, DC 20515

RE: Partnership to Protect Coverage

Minority Leader McConnell United States Senate Russell Senate Office Building, SR-317 Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies United States House of Representatives Rayburn House Office Building, RHOB-2433 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Leader Jefferies, Speaker Johnson:

The undersigned 39 organizations represent millions of patients and consumers who face serious, acute, and chronic health conditions. Together, our 46 organizations offer unique perspectives on what

individuals and families need to prevent disease, cure illness, and manage their health. The diversity of our organizations and the populations we serve enable us to draw upon extensive knowledge and expertise that can be an invaluable resource as Congress considers any legislation that would reform our healthcare system.

In March of 2017, our organizations agreed upon three overarching principles¹ to guide any work to reform and improve the nation's healthcare system. These principles state that: (1) health care should be accessible, meaning that coverage should be easy to understand and not pose a barrier to care; (2) health care should be affordable, enabling patients to access the treatments they need to live healthy and productive lives; and (3) health care must be adequate, meaning healthcare coverage should cover treatments patients need.

In 2020, our organizations published a patient-focused agenda² that provided recommendations for policymakers across the federal government to drive positive change for our patients. As Congress explores opportunities to expand equitable access to high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage this year, our organizations would welcome the opportunity to share our perspectives and priorities regarding issues including but not limited to the following:

- Improving and Expanding Access to High-Quality, Affordable Insurance Coverage
- Reducing the Burden of Medical Debt on Patients
- Protecting Patients by Limiting Junk Insurance

To this end, we respectfully request a meeting with your office to discuss these and other issues impacting the patient and consumer community. A member of our coalition will contact your office in the near future to request an appointment.

Sincerely,

¹ https://www.protectcoverage.org/ppc-consensus-healthcare-reform-principles

² https://www.lls.org/sites/default/files/National/USA/Pdf/Publications/100-Days-Agenda-Final.pdf