



## Patient and Consumer Groups Decry Failure of Insurance Stabilization Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 26, 2018 — *A group of 17 patient and consumer groups issued the following statement after the Congress was unsuccessful at passing legislation that would stabilize the individual insurance market:*

“Our organizations are deeply disappointed that Congress failed to pass bipartisan legislation to help stabilize the individual insurance market in the omnibus spending bill. We are very concerned that individuals with preexisting conditions will lose coverage or see their premiums rise in the months to come.

Previously, we have supported market stabilization provisions crafted by Senators Alexander and Murray. However, even greater challenges face this effort as a result of the repeal of the individual mandate and policies pursued by the administration to expand association and short term limited duration plans. Our organizations continue to support legislation that includes cost-sharing reduction policies that are designed to preserve affordability for low- and moderate-income Americans. We also support the creation of a reinsurance program to help keep premiums stable, especially for those with pre-existing conditions. It is clear to us and the millions of Americans we represent, that any legislation Congress takes up in the future must maintain or improve access to affordable and adequate coverage for all individuals and families.

Despite this setback, we believe that both sides should continue discussions and act swiftly to forge a compromise that would work for patients and consumers. We stand ready to contribute to any effort that protects patients, lowers costs, and stabilizes the marketplaces.”

American Heart Association  
 American Liver Foundation  
 American Lung Association  
 Arthritis Foundation  
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
 Epilepsy Foundation

Family Voices  
Futures Without Violence  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Health Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
United Way Worldwide

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