



August 31, 2020

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Office of Governor Doug Ducey
Arizona State Capitol
Ninth Floor
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Ducey:

The Arizona Chronic Care Together (ACT) coalition was formed to establish a unified voice for those living with chronic health conditions in Arizona. ACT builds cooperation, coordination and consensus among patient health organizations representing those living in Arizona with a chronic health condition. ACT creates awareness and builds relationships with key stakeholders to influence policy that affect prevention, affordability, access to care and quality healthcare for chronic care.

More than one in two Arizonans are affected by at least one chronic condition⁽¹⁾. Our hope is that we can work collaboratively with your office for the betterment of those Arizonans living with a chronic health condition. With your partnership, ACT has the potential to have a lasting impact in Arizona on policy decisions that will build healthier communities and more productive Arizonans.

With the COVID 19 pandemic continuing to rise in Arizona, ACT is concerned not only about the acute care cases disproportionately affecting those with pre-existing conditions, but the long-lasting effects we see now and those yet unknown. We may see an increase in the already high numbers of Arizonans who have pre-existing conditions. Access to affordable, adequate and quality healthcare will become even more paramount to optimize Arizonans' ability to lead healthy, productive lives and contribute to the greater good.

We want to ensure that senate bill **1397 insurance; pre-existing condition exclusions; prohibition (Mesnard)** you recently signed into law has the parameters in place to address community rating and cost sharing, benefits offered and annual and lifetime caps to make the impact it was designed to. While SB 1397 is intended to provide a safety net should the ACA fail, we want to ensure that the over 4.2 million Arizonans living with pre-existing conditions will get the benefits they so desperately need to adequately manage their health at an affordable cost. ACT is interested in working collaboratively to make this legislation meaningful should it need to be enacted.

ACT is looking forward to working in partnership with your office to make a positive impact for Arizonans living with chronic care conditions. Together we can improve health care access, quality, and affordability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Komar', is written in a cursive style.

Cindy Komar
Executive Director

1) According to the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (<https://www.fightchronicdisease.org>)



Mission: ACT is dedicated to increasing life-enhancing opportunities for Arizonans living with chronic health conditions. ACT empowers the chronic care community to act now to improve their quality of life, and identify, prioritize and drive awareness to key issues.

Tagline: “Advocating for the one in two Arizonans with a chronic condition” (According to the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease: <https://www.fightchronicdisease.org>).

This is accomplished by working with legislators, regulators, administrators, and public health officials to focus on:

Prevention: ACT supports policies that ensure services and treatments that prevent chronic disease are included in all health plan benefit designs. This includes health and wellness programs, diagnosis, and treatments that prevent and manage chronic conditions and diseases.

Affordability: ACT believes people with chronic health conditions shouldn't have to choose between buying food or healthcare. Policies aimed at affordable healthcare must address household income. Affordable, patient-centered treatment of chronic illness should be cost-effective by eliminating unnecessary hospitalizations, improving comprehensive medication management, and other health care services such as surgeries, physician visits, and nursing home placements.

Access To Care: ACT envisions a system of care that is accessible, providing high-quality services that emphasize prevention, coordinated care, and promote the patient's wellness and longevity. ACT believes in universal access to health care coverage, including individuals who have pre-existing conditions. This includes increased access to behavioral health services and community-based support services. Health care coverage should not include practices that delay or deny access to treatments including adverse tiering, step therapy, prior authorization, non-medical switching, and other barriers.

Quality Health Care: ACT promotes patient-centered, culturally sensitive and appropriate care proven to support wellness and longevity of patients, including primary care medical home models, comprehensive medication management, health information technology, and coordination among health plans, primary care providers, and pharmacists. Access to health professionals with the knowledge, expertise and scientific evidence for effective chronic care management is essential.

Our Member Organizations

ABILITY360

ALPORT SYNDROME FOUNDATION
Hope | Action | Support

ARIZONA BLEEDING DISORDERS
FORMERLY ARIZONA HEMOPHILIA ASSOCIATION

American Diabetes Association

AMERICAN LIVER FOUNDATION

Your Liver. Your Life.

American Lung Association
Arizona

Arthritis Foundation

Brain Injury Alliance
ARIZONA

Cancer Action Network
American Cancer Society

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY
ARIZONA

ForeBatten
FOUNDATION

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

MARCH OF DIMES

iPAIN
International Pain Foundation

NATIONAL PSORIASIS FOUNDATION

Neuropathy Action Foundation
Awareness • Education • Empowerment

NORD