Patients and Caregivers Express Deep Disappointment Over Omission of a Paid Leave Program in the Build Back Better Act

A Statement from the Patients and Caregivers for Paid Leave Coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C.—October 28, 2021— As negotiations continue and details emerge regarding budget reconciliation legislation, patient and caregiver groups are gravely concerned that a national paid family and medical leave program has been dropped from the package. The Patients and Caregivers for Paid Leave Coalition – representing millions of Americans - is counting on Congress to include paid family and medical leave in this package that would help not just new parents, but also people with serious illnesses and conditions and their caregivers. We cannot let this historic opportunity go by. If you or someone you love has a serious health condition, like cancer, epilepsy, Alzheimer’s, or mental health issues, being able to take time off to receive or help facilitate necessary treatment without sacrificing your economic well-being is essential and makes a tremendous difference in patients’ lives.

More than 88 million workers in this country don’t have paid family leave to care for their loved ones. Now is the time to provide paid leave to patients and caregivers who need it. We call on Members of Congress to prioritize patients and caregivers, and ensure this program is included in the Build Back Better Act.

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