Patients and Caregivers Applaud Inclusion of Paid Leave Program in Reconciliation

A Statement from the Patients and Caregivers for Paid Leave Coalition

WASHINGTON, D.C.—November 5, 2021—On behalf of the millions of patients and caregivers we represent, we applaud House lawmakers for listening to their constituents and taking action to amend the Build Back Better legislation to include the creation of a paid medical and family leave program.

Paid family and medical leave is critical for people with serious illnesses and health conditions and their caregivers. Treatment and recovery for many conditions is often difficult and drawn out. Patients and their families need to know they can take some time to care for themselves and their loved ones without facing financial devastation. This proposal is an important step toward providing some financial security for the more than 88 million American workers who currently have no access to paid family leave—many of whom are low-wage workers of color who are disproportionately diagnosed with serious illnesses.

We are pleased the importance of this provision has been recognized and included in the bill going forward. We thank Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Richard Neal and Chair Rosa DeLauro for their work and dedication on this issue and urge Congress to act swiftly on this important legislation.

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