



Patient Organizations Concerned by the Loss of Health Coverage for Nearly 75,000 Arkansans

-- Patients Face Uncertainty as the State Continues its Redetermination of Benefits --

LITTLE ROCK, AR –MAY 10, 2023 –

On Monday, the Arkansas Department of Human Services released a report showing that nearly 75,000 Arkansans lost Medicaid coverage in the first two months of the state's redetermination of eligibility. More than 85% of them lost coverage for procedural reasons, not necessarily because they were no longer eligible. A few of the top reasons for coverage loss listed included not receiving a notice from the state, failure to respond to that notice or returned mail. This high rate of procedural terminations is unacceptable and cause for alarm.

As organizations that represent and advocate for patients and their families, we are deeply concerned about tens of thousands of Arkansans unnecessarily facing gaps in insurance coverage or becoming uninsured longer-term. For children and people with serious, acute and chronic conditions, continuous coverage is critical for successful treatment and quality of life.

Our organizations call upon the Sanders administration to pause the redeterminations process and conduct a thorough analysis of issues and problems that might be preventing Arkansans from receiving and completing their paperwork. It is imperative that the Sanders administration and the Department of Human Services evaluate this troubling report and determine why the percentage of administrative issues is so high before continuing the redetermination process.

Arkansans deserve and need access to care and coverage through Medicaid if they are eligible and the Department of Human Services must use every tool and process available to confirm that those losing coverage are no longer eligible.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Kidney Fund

American Lung Association

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Hemophilia Federation of America

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Lupus Foundation of America

March of Dimes

National Health Council

National Hemophilia Foundation

National Kidney Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Psoriasis Foundation

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Susan G. Komen

The AIDS Institute

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society