WASHINGTON, D.C., April 26, 2024 — Patient groups applaud the newly released final rule on Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that will strengthen non-discrimination protections in health care. Together, the 32 undersigned organizations issue the following statement:
“Our organizations, which represent hundreds of millions of patients and consumers facing serious, acute, and chronic health conditions across the country, thank the Department of Health and Human Services for taking this significant step to protect all patients from discrimination with the new Section 1557 final rule.

This new rule reinstates protections for everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in covered health programs and activities, consistent with statutory intent and case law.

Everyone should have access to the health care they need in a timely manner and without fear of discrimination. People with serious and chronic conditions are more likely to visit hospitals and doctors’ offices for treatment with these important protections in place. If they fear discrimination, they may delay or avoid care, which leads to worse health outcomes and higher costs for both the patient and the health care system.

We are proud to support this rule as an important step towards health equity for all.”

ALS Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Child Neurology Foundation
Chronic Disease Coalition
Chron’s & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Hemophilia Federation of America
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Lupus Foundation of America
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NMDP (National Marrow Donor Program)
National Bleeding Disorders Foundation
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Mended Hearts, Inc.
WomenHeart