

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman
House Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman
House Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Chairman Neal, and Chairman Scott:

The undersigned national organizations, representing health care consumers and patients, providers, labor, civil rights groups, and other stakeholders, write to express our strong support for your comprehensive legislation, the *Protecting Pre-Existing Conditions and Making Health Care More Affordable Act of 2019*. This legislation will meaningfully help millions of families by ensuring higher quality health coverage at lower costs. Critically, it protects people with pre-existing conditions by reversing Trump Administration actions that fundamentally undermine the individual and small group markets.

While the national conversation about the next generation of health coverage goes forward, this legislation makes reforms to help America's families in the near term that cannot afford to wait. In particular, we are pleased to support the provisions that:

- **Roll back the administration's expansion of junk short-term insurance plans and Association Health Plans.** The bill reverses the expansion of Short-Term Limited-Duration plans and Association Health Plans, which provide extremely limited "coverage" and are allowed to freely discriminate based on age and pre-existing conditions.
- **Improve Affordability for Low- and Moderate-Income Families.** The bill increases premium subsidies for individuals with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), and ensures families in the individual and small group markets never pay more than 8.5 percent of their income in premiums.
- **Reinstates Vital Consumer Protections.** The bill rescinds the administration's recent guidance on Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act that undermines protections for people with pre-existing conditions.
- **Restore funding for outreach, education, and in-person enrollment assistance.** The legislation reverses the staggering funding cuts to navigators and educational and outreach activities by the Trump Administration, ensuring that consumers have the information and help they need to get covered. Additionally, it ensures education and outreach are targeted to hard to reach populations in a linguistically and culturally

appropriate manner while recognizing that helping consumers enroll in Medicaid and CHIP is a key part of navigators' roles.

- **Fixes the “family glitch.”** The legislation fixes the family glitch and ensures more low- and moderate-income families have access to premium tax credits to buy affordable coverage in the marketplaces.

We are pleased that the Energy and Commerce Committee is marking-up portions of your comprehensive legislation this week. *We urge all three committees of jurisdiction to swiftly consider the remaining provisions and bring the full package to the floor.* We look forward to working with you on further efforts to lower consumer health care costs and expand health access, value, and equity.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for American Progress
Community Catalyst
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
National Partnership for Women & Families
Protect Our Care
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, Committee on Education and Labor