



**Patient Organizations Applaud Release of Affordable Care Act Rule to Protect All Patients from Discrimination When Accessing Health Care**

**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