

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Alexander Acosta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Independence Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Azar, Secretary Acosta, and Secretary Mnuchin:

Our organizations represent millions of patients and consumers across the country facing serious, acute, and chronic health conditions. These individuals need access to comprehensive, affordable health coverage in order to meet their medical needs. Your Departments have recently proposed a number of policy changes, the cumulative effect we believe will have serious implications for access to affordable health coverage.

care needs. Patients and consumers also need health insurance that provides coverage for the services and treatments they need. Many of the health plans that would be permitted under the regulations proposed by your Departments are less costly because they offer coverage that is severely inadequate. As a result, these policies would not adequately cover the health care needs of the individuals with serious health care needs since they would pay out of pocket for services not covered by their inadequate policies.

Prior to the enactment of the patient protections included in current law, it was difficult – and often impossible – for people with serious illnesses to get or keep affordable and adequate health insurance. Since 2014, these same individuals have benefited from patient protections enacted as part of the health care law, including a guarantee that people with serious chronic illnesses are not discriminated against on the basis of their pre-existing condition; assurance of comprehensive coverage; and a prohibition on unfair coverage restrictions. During the legislative debate on repeal and replace legislation last year, policymakers and the Administration repeatedly promised Americans that any changes to current law would not undermine these protections – particularly for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

We strongly urge you to fulfill un

Our organizations represent millions of patients, individuals, caregivers, and families who need access to quality and affordable healthcare regardless of their income or geographic location. Thank you for the opportunity.