



## Senate HELP Committee's Bipartisan Health Care Bill Positive First Step Toward Stabilization, Say Patient, Provider, and Consumer Groups

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 18, 2017 — *A non-partisan group of 29 patient, provider and consumer groups today praised the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee for crafting bipartisan legislation that will help stabilize the individual insurance markets:*

“The new bipartisan bill from the Senate HELP Committee Chair and Ranking Member offers some solid strategies to help restore confidence in the individual health insurance market. The return to regular order and bipartisanship are a much-needed breath of

fresh air in an often-divided Congress. Senators Alexander and Murray deserve high praise for their leadership on this complex and challenging issue.

The committee's proposal, which extends cost-sharing reduction payments and includes other mechanisms of stabilization, clearly moves us in the right direction. The legislation also preserves and supports key protections for individuals with preexisting conditions. We look forward to fully engaging in the next steps of this process – which will include a thorough and ongoing review of this bill's impact on patients and consumers – and we caution against any changes that might weaken existing patient protections.

We must do everything we can to push forward with a bipartisan plan that maintains access to quality and affordable care for all Americans.”

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ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
GBS/CIDP Foundation International  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
METAvivor Research & Support Organization  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Health Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
Project Sleep  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Scleroderma Foundation  
The Marfan Foundation  
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association  
United Ostomy Associations of America  
United Way Worldwide  
Volunteers of America  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease