



## 18 Patient, Provider, and Consumer Groups: Rushed CBO Score Fails to Show Graham-Cassidy's Devastating Impact on Patients

Washington D.C., September 26, 2017— A non-partisan group of 18 patient, provider, and consumer groups, representing millions of Americans, issued the following statement today in response to the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) score of the Graham-Cassidy bill:

"The rush to bring the Graham-Cassidy bill to the floor has pushed the CBO to present an incomplete picture of this legislation's impact. This new score is similar to the one CBO gave to the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA). It forecasts that millions would lose health insurance while in some states, older individuals and those with pre-existing conditions would pay more for less comprehensive coverage.

Multiple non-partisan firms have recently released analyses of Graham-Cassidy, which confirmed our worst fears – the fallout for patients would be devastating. According to one study, as many as 32 million Americans would lose their health insurance under this proposal, with 15 million losing coverage in the first full year after enactment. Previous CBO analyses of similar proposals estimated that 50 percent of the U.S. population could live in a state that allows insurers to charge higher premiums to people with serious health conditions and no longer guarantees coverage services included in the essential health benefits package.

The Graham-Cassidy proposal has yet to see floor action but has already derailed promising bi-partisan legislation, such as the reauthorization of the lifesaving Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the bipartisan insurance market stabilization efforts in the Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. These important pieces of legislation have been sacrificed for yet another partisan health bill devoid of patient input or public support.

Once again, we call on the Senate to reject this bill and preserve and improve our health care system. Our organizations stand ready to work with Congress to draft meaningful legislation to improve access to affordable, adequate health coverage.”

###

Groups include:

American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Consumers Union  
Crohns & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Health Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Volunteers of America  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease