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Patient Groups Urge Fifth Circuit to Maintain Access to No-Cost Preventive Care in Braidwood Case Amicus Brief

MILLIONS HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE PATIENT PROTECTION; BARRIERS WOULD LEAD TO WORSE HEALTH OUTCOMES

June 27, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 27, 2023 – Today, patient groups representing millions of individuals with serious health conditions filed an amicus curiae (or friend-of-the-court) brief in the case of Braidwood v. Becerra in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in support of the Department of Justice (DOJ)’s defense of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions requiring private insurers provide coverage of certain evidence-based preventive services without cost-sharing. The amicus brief provides extensive scientific data to the appeals court demonstrating that preventive services save lives and are cost-effective, as well as examples of the cost-free services that would be lost for many patients if the lower court’s decision is upheld.

Earlier this month, patient groups applauded the Fifth Circuit’s approval of a stay of the remedy ordered by the U.S. District Court, maintaining continued access to cost-free preventive service coverage while the case is deliberated.

The groups, including the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Arthritis Foundation, American Kidney Fund, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and The AIDS Institute (full list is below), issued the following statement on today’s filing:

“Cost-free access to preventive and early detection services is critical to the health of millions of people across this country, providing individuals with the best chance at early intervention and, for those diagnosed, survival of a serious illness or disease. Access to no-cost preventive care has increased utilization of lifesaving prevention, screenings and services, allowing for more effective and less costly treatment options that significantly increase one’s chances of surviving a serious health condition.

“We remain concerned about the far-reaching consequences of the District Court’s decision that could reverse years of progress on prevention, early detection and disease management. The critical avenue created by the ACA provisions in question has significantly reduced the physical and financial burden of treating severe illnesses in this country, particularly in reducing costs to the individual and the U.S. healthcare system as a whole.

“Research has proven that any cost-sharing can be a deterrent to accessing proven prevention and early detection and recent survey data has shown that even motivated cancer survivors would be less likely to access recommended screenings. Reinstating costs will lead to delays or cancelled services and will no doubt create massive barriers to preventive care for the 150 million individuals who regularly access such services.

“On behalf of the millions of patients we serve, we continue to advocate for the Fifth Circuit to uphold the rights of individuals’ access to no-cost, evidence-based preventive services as required under the ACA.”

The full list of groups who joined the amicus are as follows: American Cancer Society, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Kidney Fund, Arthritis Foundation, CancerCare, Cancer Support Community, Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation, Hemophilia Federation of America, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, National Minority Quality Forum, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Patient Advocate Foundation, The AIDS Institute, and WomenHeart.

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JUNE 26, 2023

ACS CAN Applauds Hawaii Governor Josh Green for Increasing Access to Telehealth Services

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) recognizes and applauds Governor Josh Green for signing HB907 into law, Thursday morning. Once enacted, the legislation will improve access to audio-only telehealth to help ensure cancer patients and survivors have access to the appropriate medical specialists they may need.

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JUNE 26, 2023

Survey: LGBTQ+ Cancer Patients and Survivors Concerned about Facing Discrimination in a Health Care Setting

According to a new survey, half of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) cancer patients and survivors report they are concerned they may face discrimination in a health care setting. More than one-third have experienced discrimination in a health care setting due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and 75% of those who say they experienced discrimination feel it impacted their health care.

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JUNE 23, 2023

Nation’s Leading Cancer Patient Advocacy Organization Supports Expanding Access to Affordable Health Insurance for DACA Recipients

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) submitted comments today supporting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ proposed rule to expand federal insurance coverage eligibility to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

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