

CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

Cancer Organizations Comment on Ruling that ACA is Unconstitutional

Washington, DC, December 18, 2018 – The undersigned organizations of the Cancer Leadership Council respond to the decision of a federal district court judge declaring all of the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional.

“Our organizations, representing the millions of Americans diagnosed with cancer, express serious concerns about the decision that invalidates the Affordable Care Act. This ruling would eliminate the protections that are critical to people with cancer, including pre-existing condition protections, benefit standards, and cost-sharing protections. These are the provisions of the Affordable Care Act that have protected access to adequate and affordable health insurance for people with cancer.

“The decision of the federal district court takes us back to a time before the Affordable Care Act when people with cancer were routinely denied insurance.

“Our first act will be to communicate to people with cancer that the law will remain in place pending appeal. Those who purchase insurance through the exchanges and those who are covered by Medicaid can rest assured that their coverage is protected during the appeal process. And all Americans who benefit from the consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act will continue to enjoy those protections.

“During Congressional action to repeal the tax related to the individual mandate, the supporters of that action asserted that the tax repeal would not affect pre-existing condition protections or other critical consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act. Virtually every House and Senate candidate pledged support for pre-existing condition protections during midterm election campaigning. We anticipate that the ruling invalidating the Affordable Care Act will be appealed, and we urge Congress to act on campaign pledges by seeking to intervene in the appeals process in support of the Affordable Care Act.

The ruling of the federal district court will bring serious harm to people with cancer, and we look forward to a decision on appeal that will reverse the district court ruling and ensure that people with cancer will continue to be protected in the insurance market.”

Cancer Leadership Council

Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators

American Society for Radiation Oncology

CancerCare

Cancer Support Community

The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy

Fight Colorectal Cancer

Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

International Myeloma Foundation

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

LIVESTRONG

LUNGeivity

Lymphoma Research Foundation

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Sarcoma Foundation of America

Susan G. Komen