

## **Congressional Resolution on HHS' Reduction in Public Comment – Statements of Support and Endorsements**

### **Endorsements**

- **Hospital Associations:** America's Essential Hospitals, Association of American Medical Colleges, National Rural Health Association, Children's Hospital Association, Gillette Children's
- **Physician and Clinician Organizations:** American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Large Urology Group Practice Association, Gerontological Society of America, CancerCare
- **Post-Acute Care Providers:** National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation, LeadingAge
- **Patient Advocacy Groups:** Families USA, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Protect Our Care, Medicare Rights Center, American Kidney Fund, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, American Lung Association, Geriatric Circle, AI Arthritis, National Kidney Foundation, National Bleeding Disorders Foundation, Justice in Aging, National Bleeding Disorders Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, National MS Society, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, National Health Council, National Organization for Rare Disorders, Daily Voice National, National Health Law Program, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Alliance for Aging Research, National Patient Advocate Foundation, American Federation for Aging Research, Community Catalyst, Arthritis Foundation, Epilepsy Foundation of America, Center for Reproductive Rights, Susan G. Komen, Immune Deficiency Foundation, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Caring Across Generations
- **Reproductive Health Organizations:** National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, National Women's Law Center Action Fund, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Center for Reproductive Rights, National Partnership for Women & Families
- **Labor and Workforce:** SEIU, AFSCME, PHI National, National Nurses United, United Steelworkers (USW), AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services

### **Statements of Support**

- "What is HHS so afraid of that they don't want to hear from people impacted by government policies? The department's recent actions are the opposite of 'radical transparency' ; they are a signal they have something to hide. Giving the public the opportunity to comment on rule making is essential for good government and good policies. This HHS should be held to the same high standard as HHS' past." **Former CMS Administrator, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure**
- "The needs and experiences of people who live with complex health conditions, like CF, should inform the policies that support them. The long-standing notice and comment process is an essential tool to ensure their voices are heard." **Mary Dwight, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Senior Vice President and Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer**

- “The federal government has used the public notice and comment process for decades as a way to make sure it gathers key information from non-DC experts like parents and child care providers to keep children safe and thriving in child care and early learning programs. The Trump Administration’s decision to eliminate this process will harm our youngest citizens and is just the latest dangerous example of them ignoring the experts and thinking they know better than everyone else.” **Ruth Friedman, Former Director of the Office of Child Care at the Administration for Children and Families**
- “The decision to eliminate public participation in rulemaking threatens older adults and their wellbeing. Rules such as those dictating nursing facilities or Medicaid enrollment and eligibility are complex and demand transparency and public input. We call on HHS to reinstate rulemaking that ensures meaningful public engagement so policies reflect the voices of those most impacted.” **Amber Christ, Managing Director of Health Advocacy, Justice in Aging**
- “Patients, caregivers, and health care providers have a significant stake in the policies that directly affect their access to care, treatment options, and health outcomes. Important insight from these stakeholders will result in better rulemaking. Without meaningful public participation, HHS risks implementing policies that lack critical input from those most affected, leading to unintended consequences and diminished public trust.” **Randall Rutta, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Council**
- "For decades, PHI has utilized the notice and comment process to inform U.S. healthcare policy, ensuring it reflects the realities of the critical, yet often-overlooked, direct care workforce. Eliminating this process would silence the voices of workers, family caregivers, older adults, people with disabilities, and advocates at a crucial moment for care in the United States. Effective policymaking requires input from the data, expertise, and on-the-ground experience that PHI and other advocates provide, and it must account for the potential impact of policy changes on the vast number of Americans who deliver and rely on care." **Jodi M. Sturgeon, President, PHI**
- “The ability to comment on regulatory changes about how programs must consider their circumstances and needs is absolutely vital for family caregivers, disabled people, and older adults all across this country,” **said Nicole Jorwic, Chief Program Officer at Caring Across Generations.** “We’ve recently seen just how quickly organizational changes at The Department of Health and Human Services can exacerbate our country’s patchwork care infrastructure that millions of families are already struggling from. That is why we strongly support Senators Wyden, Markey, and King’s resolution, because those impacted by changes deserve to use their collective voices and be heard.”
- “The National Rural Health Association is concerned about reversal of the long-standing practice of the Department of Health and Human Services’ related to the Richardson Waiver. Public input and transparency in Executive Branch actions are the foundation of the policymaking process and are crucial to ensure that the Department is serving the best interests of Americans, including our rural populations.” **Alan Morgan, CEO, National Rural Health Association**

- "The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) makes critical decisions to the health and wellness of the neuromuscular disease community every single day, including in when, how, and to whom grants, contracts, and other agreements are issued. We believe it is crucial that these decisions are made in a fully transparent manner, including allowing organizations like MDA to review and comment on HHS's decision making. We support this common sense resolution, and urge all Senators to support transparency in government decision making." **Paul Melmeyer, Executive Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)**
- "The Trump administration wants to make health care decisions for us – decisions that can have deeply personal and life-altering consequences – without any notice, transparency or public input," **said AFSCME President Lee Saunders.** "It's dangerous, and it's wrong. Patients, families, caregivers and front-line health care professionals, including thousands of AFSCME members, deserve a voice in the decisions that shape public health. We stand with Senators Wyden, Markey and King in this effort to ensure that the billionaires running this administration can't make sweeping, unilateral decisions about Medicaid, Head Start, and other vital programs our communities rely on every single day."
- "Pediatricians bear witness to the impact of public policies on the health of children and families every day. Through the public comment process, the AAP and pediatricians bring crucial child health expertise and scientific evidence that leads to stronger policies for children. It is vital for the health of our nation that pediatricians and other child health experts continue to have a seat at the policymaking table, and we thank Senators Wyden, Markey, and King for introducing this important resolution," **said Susan Kressly, MD, FAAP, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics.**
- "Public input should be viewed as more than just a formality but as an essential tool for promoting accountability and transparency. It is essential to facilitate, rather than impede, the ability of individuals who depend on essential government services to voice their opinions." **Gillette Children's President and CEO, Barbara Joers**
- "The public notice and comment process isn't political. It's an essential tool for the public – and that includes, patients, providers, researchers and more - to weigh in and provide feedback to ensure HHS moves forward with the best possible policy so that our health care system works better for the people it aims to serve," **said Jen Taylor, senior director of government relations at Families USA.** "This short-sighted and perilous move by the Trump administration is the opposite of the 'radical transparency' that Secretary Kennedy promised during his confirmation process. Health care policy is too important to allow government officials to make rule changes or update regulations or enforcements without any input from the experts who know it best or from the people it impacts the most."