

September 25, 2017

Arthritis Foundation: Concerned Graham-Cassidy Could Jeopardize Care for the Arthritis Community

The Arthritis Foundation remains opposed to the latest proposal that would repeal or replace the Affordable Care Act and is gravely concerned about the impact this legislation could have on important patient protections for people with arthritis. Most troubling is that the bill opens the door to the elimination of essential health benefits and undermines protections for pre-existing conditions. Members of Congress are also expected to vote on this bill without important details from the nonpartisan

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) concerning the bill's impacts on health coverage and premiums. In the absence of a CBO score, several independent analyses of the legislation have concluded it will result in significant cuts to federal health care funding and raise health care costs for patients.

"Throughout this year's health care debate, the Arthritis Foundation has put a stake in the ground with six health care reform principles that reflect what is most important to patients, as defined by our constituents through surveys and focus groups," said Ann M. Palmer, CEO and President, Arthritis Foundation. "This bill fails to meet those patient-guided principles. For many in the arthritis community, policy decisions made this week will be the difference between a life of chronic pain and disability or a life of wellness and full mobility. We continue to urge the Senate and all members of Congress to work on a bipartisan basis to strengthen the health care system."