As a patient voice for the 16 million cancer survivors and their families, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) is concerned about what repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would mean for health care access and affordability for everyone touched by cancer. The ACA is not perfect, but now cancer patients are no longer at the mercy of the health care system. We cannot go back. The following principles are critical to cancer survivors’ access to high-quality and affordable care. Most are CURRENTLY contained in the ACA, and we will measure any replacement plans against these goals.

ACCESS and AFFORDABILITY

- Individuals with **pre-existing conditions** must not be denied coverage or charged higher premiums. **Guaranteed issue and community rating** must continue.
- Plans must cover all health care needs. Without **essential health benefits**, important services for cancer patients may not be covered. Insurers would offer inadequate plans, which would discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions.
- **Adequate financial assistance** must be provided to ensure people with low and moderate incomes can purchase health insurance.
- Insurers must not discriminate against **older Americans**, who are disproportionately impacted by cancer, or women.
- **Cost-sharing protections** must be maintained, including caps on out-of-pocket costs and the elimination of annual and lifetime maximum benefits. Even with these protections, cancer patients still face serious financial burdens and even bankruptcy.
- **Medicaid expansion** must be maintained, as it is critical to more than 1.5 million low income individuals living with cancer.
- Individuals must not be unduly punished for a lapse in coverage. Cancer survivors know full well the need to retain coverage; if they have a lapse, it is due to affordability.
- People with pre-existing conditions must not be segregated into **high-risk pools**, which are expensive and burdensome and do not meet the needs of cancer patients.
- Cancer patients must have access to **comprehensive and well-coordinated cancer care**, including clinical trials.
STRENGTHENING THE MARKET

- Cost-sharing reduction subsidies must be maintained to protect consumers and ensure participation by insurers in the marketplace.
- Adequate support and outreach must be provided for the 2018 enrollment period to assist consumers in purchasing coverage.

IMPROVING THE SYSTEM

- Continue to reduce costs by transitioning from fee-for-service to value-based payments.
- Allow the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to continue innovating to reduce health care costs and improve quality of care.
- The Oncology Care Model (OCM), a five-year program of CMMI to provide higher quality, better coordinated oncology care at a lower cost to Medicare, should continue.

Arizona Statistics

New cancer diagnoses in 2017: **3,600**
Cancer survivors as of 1/1/16: **33,340**
Number of Alaskans who would lose coverage under AHCA: **44,500**

Important Cancer Statistics

- 1.7 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed in 2016.
- 40 percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetime.
- 16,000 children were diagnosed with cancer in 2014, those who survive face a lifetime of late and long-term effect of cancer and cancer treatment.
- 33 percent of cancer patients are unemployed.
- Access to health insurance has a positive impact on cancer outcomes.
- Bankruptcy rates among cancer survivors are 260 percent higher than among similar households without cancer.

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[www.canceradvocacy.org/ProtectOurCare](http://www.canceradvocacy.org/ProtectOurCare).
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