

September 26, 2017

Arthritis Foundation Pleased Graham-Cassidy Will Not Come Up for Vote; Urges Return to Bipartisanship

On September 26, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that the bill introduced by Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC) to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would not be called up for a vote this week. The Arthritis Foundation opposed the legislation because of its failure to uphold our patient principles and fully protect people with pre-existing conditions. However, we recognize that improvements must be made to the ACA, and we strongly urge Congress to revisit the bipartisan process that was started by Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA) earlier this month. The individual market lacks certainty about the continuation of cost sharing reduction payments, and timing is critical ahead of open enrollment. The Arthritis Foundation calls on the Administration to continue providing these payments, and to offer comprehensive outreach and assistance services to patients enrolling in the Marketplace. The Arthritis Foundation recently sent recommendations to Congress with [bipartisan solutions](#) to strengthen the health care system, and looks forward to working with policymakers to ensure the patient voice is central to future efforts to improve health care.