Every life is valuable. We strongly urge policymakers to reject policies that discriminate against people with disabilities and chronic conditions, older adults, and reinforce health inequities.

As organizations representing patients and people with disabilities, we call on policymakers to work to ensure the most vulnerable populations among us, including people with disabilities, will not be denied coverage or access to high quality health care based on discriminatory measurements of a treatment’s value. Our core belief is rooted in the idea that every American is valuable.

We are eager to work with lawmakers on policies that will improve Americans’ health and quality of life. It is critical to remain committed to our shared goal of preventing discrimination against people with disabilities and chronic conditions by condemning policies that would rely on the Quality-Adjusted Life Year (QALY) or similar average metrics that fail to account for those who are not average. There is a long history of strong, bi-partisan opposition to QALY-based policies in Medicare and Medicaid that could hurt our most vulnerable populations. Therefore, we strongly urge policymakers to reject potentially catastrophic legislation and policies that reference QALYs and similar metrics, which reinforce health inequities, devalue people with disabilities and chronic conditions, older adults and communities of color. The National Council on Disability explicitly warned that policies that would reference QALYs, directly or by referencing foreign prices for medicines, could result in a loss of access to care for people with disabilities.

We are committed to working with the Biden Administration and 117th Congress as well as states on common sense health reforms centered on patients and people with disabilities, while tackling important issues such as affordability. We will work across the aisle to ensure the implementation of health care solutions.