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JDRF.org

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

For many years, JDRF has advocated for protections for people with pre-existing conditions to ensure they cannot be denied insurance coverage, charged higher premiums, or provided more limited benefits due to their condition. As the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes research, JDRF represents 1.25 million Americans with a chronic, serious and life-threatening disease who should have access to comprehensive health insurance at rates similar to those without pre-existing conditions.

Preserving protections for people with pre-existing conditions is critical for people with type 1 diabetes, who need health insurance coverage to access the drugs and devices that keep them alive every day. Therefore, we are gravely concerned with the stance taken recently by the Department of Justice in litigation that could jeopardize these protections, which have broad bipartisan support.

Earlier this week, at a hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, you noted that the Justice Department's stance was "a constitutional position... not a policy position" and that "we do believe in finding solutions on the matter of pre-existing conditions."

Given the many negative health care consequences for our community, we request a meeting as soon as possible with the appropriate officials to discuss our concerns and ways to ensure current law protections for people with pre-existing conditions are preserved.

Please contact me or Cynthia Rice, JDRF's Senior Vice President of Advocacy & Policy, at 202-465-4159 or crice@jdrf.org.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek K. Rapp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Derek K. Rapp
President & CEO