

## **For Your Information....Update and Statement from the OIF on Health Care Reform**

Consistent with its mission to improve the quality of life for those living with osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), the OI Foundation continues to urge policymakers to take into account the ways in which legislative and regulatory proposals to reform the health care industry will impact people with OI and other rare, chronic disorders and disabilities.

Studies have shown that people with disabilities have experienced significant coverage gains as a result of the insurance policy standards created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). These standards include protections that:

- Prohibit denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions
- Dependent coverage must be offered to children up to age 26
- Prohibit lifetime caps on coverage
- Require insurers to offer minimum coverage (known as Essential Health Benefits) that includes at least the following ten services: outpatient, emergency care, hospitalization, maternity, mental health, prescription drugs, rehabilitation, laboratory, preventive care, and pediatric services

For many in the OI community, access to consistent and comprehensive insurance coverage goes beyond meeting critical medical needs. It also means achieving economic self-sufficiency and independent living. This is especially true for those with low and moderate incomes who rely on the Medicaid program. The ACA has allowed people with OI and others to obtain needed health services while still accumulating resources and increasing self-sufficiency. This has been accomplished through the law's expansion of Medicaid eligibility and improving coverage of long-term services and support. The reforms include the creation of the "Community First Choice Option" allowing states to provide home and community based attendant service and supports to Medicaid enrollees.

Policy proposals, whether through legislation or regulation, to eliminate or curtail the ACA's consumer protections, repeal Medicaid expansion and shrink traditional Medicaid by 35% through financial restructuring and new eligibility restrictions would have a negative impact on Americans with disabilities and other pre-existing conditions, including people with OI.

**The OIF asks Congress and the Administration to support policies that ensure access to quality healthcare coverage that includes critical patient protections. The OIF also encourages a transparent process that welcomes the perspectives of multiple stakeholders to ensure the best interest of the OI community is considered.**

For more information please contact the OI Foundation at 844-889-7579.

