

north american

BRAIN TUMOR COALITION

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American Brain Tumor Association

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www.abta.org

www.tbts.org

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

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www.braintumour.ca

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

866-228-4673 • info@cbtf.org

www.cbtf.org

Florida Brain Tumor Association

www.fbta.org

The Michael Quinlan Brain Tumor

Foundation

502-896-1701 • kathy.quinlan@mqtbf.org

www.mqtbf.org

National Brain Tumor Society

800-934-2873 • nbtbf@braintumor.org

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The Preuss Foundation, Inc.

858-454-0200 • fari@preuss.org

Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation

404-843-3700 • sbtflanta@aol.com

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Voices Against Brain Cancer

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Dear Senator/Representative:

The North American Brain Tumor Coalition, which represents individuals with brain tumors and their families and friends, urges Congress to act without delay to approve a health reform bill to improve access to quality health care for all Americans. Those with brain tumors and other serious and life-threatening illnesses can wait no longer for health reform.

Receiving a diagnosis of a brain tumor changes a person's life forever. In addition to the challenges of identifying and making decisions about the best possible brain tumor treatment, those with brain tumors all too often face the loss of insurance coverage, inadequate insurance coverage, or crippling economic burdens from their care. American health care is touted as the best in the world, but that is true only for those who can afford it. Regrettably, many brain tumor patients cannot pay for the care they need.

A health reform package must be guided by several key principles in order to respond to the needs of brain tumor patients. First, the legislation must include comprehensive insurance reforms that will protect brain tumor patients and others from pre-existing condition limits and from insurance premiums that are based on health status. Second, health care must be made affordable. This will require assistance to low- and middle-income individuals who could not otherwise afford health insurance, as well as limits on out-of-pocket costs, annual caps, and lifetime caps to guarantee that health insurance coverage is meaningful. Third, individuals with brain tumors and others with life-threatening illnesses must have access without delay to quality, evidence-based medical care. Finally, reform legislation should include patient advocates as full members of independent advisory panels charged with defining a benefit package, to guarantee that the consumer voice is heard in deliberations about essential elements of insurance coverage.

The North American Brain Tumor Coalition, a network of nonprofit brain tumor organizations, is dedicated to improving the prognosis and quality of life for brain tumor patients. The Coalition educates policymakers and advocates for increased research into brain tumor treatments, causes, and rehabilitation.

We applaud Congress for its work this year to draft and debate groundbreaking health reform legislation. An undertaking of this magnitude presents serious challenges to lawmakers, and the delay of final action until the fall is understandable. However, the millions of Americans who are uninsured or underinsured cannot wait longer.

We look forward to the return of Congress to Washington, D.C. after Labor Day to complete work on historic legislation to improve health care access for all.

Sincerely,

North American Brain Tumor Coalition