

**July 25, 2022**

[Leading physician organizations sound alarm on lawsuit threatening preventive care](#)

CHICAGO – Led by the American Medical Association (AMA), leading medical organizations that represent physicians providing vital preventive health care services to millions of patients with private health plan coverage expressed concern that a federal court case could cause millions of Americans to lose access to preventive services. *Kelley v. Becerra*, a lawsuit before a federal district court judge in the Northern District of Texas, threatens the section of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requiring insurers and group health plans to cover more than 100 preventive health services – with no cost to consumers. One of the ACA’s most popular and widely recognized benefits, the provision resulted in an estimated 151.6 million people receiving free preventive care in 2020 alone.

“With an adverse ruling, patients would lose access to vital preventive health care services, such as screening for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, heart disease, diabetes, preeclampsia, and hearing, as well as access to immunizations critical to maintaining a healthy population,” the organizations wrote. “Our patients cannot afford to lose this critical access to preventive health care services. Rolling back this access would reverse important progress and make it harder for physicians to diagnose and treat diseases and medical conditions that, if caught early, are significantly more manageable.”

The joint statement sounding alarms about this threat to preventive services was signed by 61 organizations.

The full statement is below:

The undersigned medical associations and societies represent practicing physicians who provide vital preventive health care services to millions of patients. We are extremely concerned that a case before a federal judge in the Northern District of Texas could significantly jeopardize the coverage of preventive health care services for millions of Americans with private health insurance and reverse positive trends in patient health achieved by the early detection and treatment of diseases and other medical conditions.

The Court scheduled a July 26, 2022, hearing to determine the constitutionality of section 2713 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which requires non-grandfathered group health plans and health insurance issuers to provide coverage for preventive health care services without patient cost-sharing. For more than a decade, expanded coverage of preventive health care services has made an enormous positive impact on patient health. This court case jeopardizes that progress.

**With an adverse ruling, patients would lose access to vital preventive health care services, such as screening for breast cancer, colorectal cancer, cervical cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, preeclampsia, and hearing, as well as well child visits and access to immunizations critical to maintaining a healthy population.**

Research shows that, since the enactment of the ACA, millions of patients have benefitted from increased access to preventive health care services without cost-sharing. For example, a January

2022 [report](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) found that more than 150 million people with private insurance – including 58 million women and 37 million children – can receive preventive services without cost-sharing under the ACA. Additionally, the report showed the ACA increased colon cancer screening, vaccinations, use of contraception, and chronic disease screening and [studies](#) have shown a reduction in racial and ethnic disparities in the use of preventive care since the ACA was enacted.

Our patients cannot afford to lose this critical access to preventive health care services. Rolling back this access would reverse important progress and make it harder for physicians to diagnose and treat diseases and medical conditions that, if caught early, are significantly more manageable.

Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry, Inc.  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association for Physician Leadership  
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American Association of Public Health Physicians  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Lifestyle Medicine  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society  
American Osteopathic Association

American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Dermatopathology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Endocrine Society  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
Obesity Medicine Association  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Pediatric Dermatology  
Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Society of Thoracic Surgeons