

DRAFT

July 31, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing patients, providers, and public health organizations, we urge Congress to include the Cure Hepatitis C Act of 2025 (S.1941) in the broader health legislative package. There are very few opportunities for the health care community and Congress to partner to eliminate a devastating disease, but hepatitis C presents one. With oral medications that have been on the market for over 10 years and cure over 95 percent of patients in just 8 to 12 weeks, the tools are available to save the lives of many Americans if Congress acts now, and we ask that you do.

At least 2.4 million — and as many as 4 million people in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis C, often referred to as a “silent killer.” Chronically infected individuals may be asymptomatic for years while the virus damages their liver. They may also develop other chronic conditions like diabetes and kidney disease. Left undetected and untreated, hepatitis C may progress to liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and potentially even death. Liver transplantation is the only rescue therapy available to those who develop the complications related to cirrhosis but is an expensive and limited option. Every year, one of every five persons on the waiting list for liver transplantation die or become too sick to undergo the transplant. Diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C can avoid all those downstream consequences—for every one million people cured of hepatitis C in ten years, 34,000 cases of liver cancer, 2,500 liver transplants, and 24,000 deaths can be prevented.

The high number of individuals unaware of their disease status, the barriers to screening and treatment, and the cost of these medications are the primary impediments to hepatitis C elimination. However, Congress can act to address these challenges, save the lives of many Americans living with hepatitis C, and reduce the significant health costs associated with treating those who develop liver cancer and require liver transplants. The Cure Hepatitis C Act, which the Congressional Budget Office found saves \$6.5 billion in the 10-year budget window, contains the following components:

- \$9.7 billion in funding through 2031 to expand access to rapid screening, treatment, and services to support hepatitis C elimination.
- Empowers state and local public health systems, community health centers, opioid treatment programs, and correctional facilities to build lasting infrastructure, scale up existing prevention programs, and integrate hepatitis C services into their work.

We have seen a similar approach taken by the states of Louisiana, Washington, and Texas that have made a great deal of impact in reducing the number of people with hepatitis C. This legislation provides a blueprint to save lives and reduce federal healthcare spending by testing and treating individuals living with hepatitis C. The time to act is now before hepatitis C progresses to more costly and complicated liver

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diseases for many Americans. We stand ready to work with you to eliminate hepatitis C for all Americans and respectfully request that Congress include S.1941 in its legislative package for health.

Sincerely,

cc: Chair Mike Crapo, Senate Finance Committee
Ranking Member Ron Wyden, Senate Finance Committee
Chair Bill Cassidy, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
Ranking Member Bernie Sanders, Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee
Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee
Chair Chuck Grassley, Senate Judiciary Committee
Ranking Member Dick Durbin, Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair Jason Smith, House Ways & Means Committee
Ranking Member Richard Neal, House Ways & Means Committee
Chair Brett Guthrie, House Energy & Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Frank Pallone, House Energy & Commerce Committee
Chair Tom Cole, House Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee
Chair Jim Jordan, House Judiciary Committee
Ranking Member Jamie Raskin, House Judiciary Committee