

## **ACTION ALERT – Health Care Reform**

The Alpha-1 Association and Alpha-1 Foundation support the health care reform legislation to make health care more affordable and insure proper quality of care for **all** Americans. However, access to specialized care and therapies for individuals with rare diseases such as **Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency** must be addressed. As Congress returns to home districts for recess, we have a great opportunity to meet, call or email our legislators and explain our needs in health care reform. We need to make sure that Health Care Reform addresses the following principles:

**Private Insurance Market Reforms** – Out-of-pocket costs and co-pays for those with rare diseases are too high and continue to block access to medical care.

**Affordability** - Health care reform legislation must limit deductibles and co-payments, which can deter patients from getting the care they need.

**Access to Specialists** - Current proposals do not address how people with rare diseases will have unobstructed access to specialists. It is critical that there is streamlined access to specialists.

**Access to Therapies** - People with rare diseases must have access to the full range of medically necessary treatments appropriate for their condition. Alpha-1 therapies are not “one size fits all.”

**Comparative Effectiveness Research** - The Association and Foundation support comparative effectiveness research that identifies treatments and services that are effective in *clinically* treating rare diseases. . It is important to provide physicians with such clinical information to assist in the prescribing of proper therapy. Do NOT let comparative effectiveness become the means for prescribing through the creation of formularies and other restrictions on therapeutic use.

For more information, please visit [www.alpha1.org](http://www.alpha1.org) or [www.alphaone.org](http://www.alphaone.org).

### **TAKE ACTION:**

Call your elected official in the House of Representatives and Senate and ask for him/her to include the above principles in the Health Care Reform. We also encourage to you attend a town hall or community meeting. Make sure you tell him/her that:

- you are a constituent,
- this issue is vital to you personally or to your community,
- this issue is important to all Americans, and
- you expect your elected official to take a stand in support of these principles.

Please call the Alpha-1 Association or Alpha-1 Foundation and let us know how you did.

Who is my representative? Visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and enter your zip code in the small box at the top and click “GO”. The next page will direct you to your representative.