



December 15, 2018

### **Bazelon Center Statement on the *Texas V. Azar* Decision**

The Bazelon Center is disappointed and disturbed by yesterday's ruling in *Texas v. Azar* invalidating the Affordable Care Act, which expanded access to health care to millions of Americans. The lawsuit brought by Texas and other states seeking this result marked the latest attempt to unravel the ACA's protections.

Judge O'Connor's decision ignores Supreme Court precedent and the intent of Congress. It dismantles protections for people with preexisting conditions that Congress explicitly sought to maintain and, in 2017, chose not to repeal. This decision should and will be appealed. We expect that the Affordable Care Act will be upheld and plan to support the appeal.

We urge everyone who is eligible to sign up for health insurance via [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov)—please remember that Open Enrollment ends today! Like the rest of the United States, the Bazelon Center believes that all Americans deserve access to comprehensive, high-quality health care, regardless of preexisting conditions. This commitment to our fellow humans was reaffirmed in the November 2018 midterm elections where support for people with preexisting conditions reached an unprecedented high. We condemn any and all efforts to reduce access to care, especially this unconscionable ruling, issued the day before Open Enrollment ends. We remain ready to defend access to health care for the millions of Americans with disabilities whose lives depend on it.