



**Conservatives
for
Property Rights**

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chairman
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
E&C Health Subcommittee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McMorris Rodgers and Chairman Guthrie:

Conservatives for Property Rights strongly supports H.R. 485, the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act, which would prohibit use of measures such as quality-adjusted life years in federal health programs. Thank you for your leadership on this life-or-death issue.

CPR, a coalition of conservative and libertarian organizations dedicated to first principles of private property rights, emphasizes the central importance of private property in all its forms — physical, personal, and intellectual. The right to private property, including one's life, ranks among the unalienable rights the Founders referenced in the Declaration of Independence.

Our coalition commends the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act's barring the use of a means of rationing health care by withholding access from the most vulnerable patients to the health goods and services they require. Bureaucrats use QALYs to deny medicines and treatments that could cure, heal, or protect the deprived patients.

Though the U.S. health system remains one of the most free-enterprise health systems in the world, elements of government-run health systems have entered our system. Budget-focused government bureaucrats in socialized health systems use cruel tools such as QALYs to rationalize denying needed medical treatment to those patients in the most need.

The United States has increasingly adopted the cost-effectiveness assessments of advocates like the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review (ICER). However, ICER and QALYs undervalue human life. "The greatest flaw by far in the QALY methodology is the subjective threshold value attached to a year of perfect health."¹

Canadian, European, and other government-controlled health systems ration access to medical care because they set artificially low prices on medical goods and services. The reality of "quality adjusted life years" is government's inhumane cruelty, playing God with medical-rationing decisions based on financial and budgetary—not medical or humanitarian—

¹ <https://www.statnews.com/2019/02/22/qaly-drug-effectiveness-reviews/>

justifications. If someone is too old, too young, or too sick, health system bureaucrats effectively tell him or her to “drop dead.” H.R. 485 puts an end to such a callous practice.

In closing, Conservatives for Property Rights fully supports H.R. 485 and urges its passage and prompt enactment.

Sincerely,

James Edwards
Executive Director
Conservatives for Property Rights

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