

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Statement in Response to the *Braidwood v. Becerra* Ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 30, 2023 – The following statement from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force in response to the *Braidwood v. Becerra* ruling can be attributed to Task Force Chair Dr. Michael Barry:

“The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) is deeply committed to improving the health of people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations that help clinicians and patients decide together which preventive services are right for them, and our mission has not changed since we began doing this work nearly 40 years ago.

“Since the Task Force was initially created in 1984, we have based our recommendations solely on the evidence, rather than on any insurance-related considerations. For each of our recommendations, we review the results of well-designed research studies to determine whether use of a specific preventive service such as screening for lung cancer is likely to improve the length and quality of a person’s life without causing undue harm.

“From helping people find cancers early to preventing kids from starting to smoke, we believe that clinicians and patients have a right to know what the evidence shows about how best to stay healthy. In recent years, we have seen the impact of this work, especially on those most in need of health care. Millions of people across the country rely on these services every day to help them get and stay healthy. And as care has become more accessible over the past decade, more people who have low incomes have been able to access the care they need, such as screening for both colorectal and cervical cancer.

“Fundamentally, people across the country deserve the opportunity to receive these important preventive services that have been proven to help them live longer and healthier lives.

“The Task Force is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that works to improve the health of people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications.”

Dr. Barry is the director of the Informed Medical Decisions Program in the Health Decision Sciences Center at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is also a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a primary care clinician at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Contact: USPSTF Media Coordinator at Newsroom@USPSTF.net / (301) 951-9203