



## **A National Coalition Committed to Ending Chronic Diseases and Lowering the Cost of Health Care**

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Chronic diseases are the true drivers of health care costs. According to the CDC, 90 percent of the nation's \$4.9 trillion in annual health care expenditure is for people with chronic and mental health conditions. Interventions to prevent and manage these diseases can have significant [health and economic benefits](#).

There is a [growing bipartisan interest](#) in improving the health and wellness of communities across the country. The Trump Administration's health care team has made chronic disease a primary focus.

Congress is also engaging in the effort. [New legislation](#) has been introduced and more is on the way. [Congressional hearings](#) are well underway.

### **Now is the Time for the AFIM Alliance**

This Alliance presents us with an opportunity to showcase the work of health systems, physicians, insurers, other major employers, farmers, other agriculture interests, universities, foundations and others as they engage in fighting chronic diseases. It also gives us the opportunity to partner with the White House, HHS, CMS, CMMI, USDA and Congress in joint efforts to fight the epidemic.

The nation's health care system must be focused on keeping Americans healthy and avoiding high-cost care in the first place. It's time for change.

### **The Goal**

The Alliance is bringing together leaders in health, food, agriculture and business to work together to reform American health care by focusing on reversing and preventing chronic disease and lowering the cost of health care. The Alliance will focus on Accountable Food Is Medicine as a clinical intervention designed to accomplish this goal. The Alliance will bring accountability measures to health insurers, clinical providers, farmers, businesses and patients.

A growing number of members of Congress are engaged in finding solutions to the nation's chronic disease epidemic. In fact, new legislation will soon be introduced that focuses on preventing and reversing chronic diseases by using Accountable Food Is Medicine interventions. We have already met with Coalition members at HHS and the White House to discuss 'Accountable Food Is Medicine' initiatives underway in the private sector.

The Alliance will focus on policy and advocacy. It will hold regular discussions with Congress and the Administration. It will promote the program initiatives of its members and showcase them in Washington.