



Texas Health
Resources

Healing Hands. Caring Hearts.™

Barclay E. Berdan, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Veasey,

On behalf of Texas Health Resources, one of the largest faith-based, nonprofit health systems in the United States, I am writing to express our strong support for the Accountable Food Is Medicine Act of 2026. This legislation represents an important step toward addressing the root causes of chronic disease by testing innovative, accountable models that integrate nutrition, preventive services, and coordinated care.

Across the country and within the communities we serve in North Texas, chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and obesity remain among the leading drivers of preventable hospitalizations and rising health care costs. These conditions are often closely linked to nutrition, access to healthy foods, and other non-medical drivers of health. Health systems are increasingly recognizing that improving patient outcomes requires interventions that extend beyond the traditional clinical setting.

The bill's proposal to direct the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test an Accountable Food Is Medicine Bundled Payment Model is a thoughtful and forward-looking approach. By integrating services such as personalized prevention planning, care coordination, remote patient monitoring, lifestyle counseling, and access to healthy nutrient-dense foods, the model aligns well with emerging evidence that nutrition-based interventions can significantly improve outcomes for patients with chronic conditions.

Importantly, the legislation emphasizes accountability through data collection, patient engagement tracking, and evaluation of health outcomes and cost savings. This structure ensures that the model will generate meaningful evidence to inform future Medicare and Medicaid policy while supporting innovative care delivery strategies.

As you know, Texas Health Resources has long been committed to advancing value-based care and addressing the upstream factors that influence health. We believe this legislation will provide an opportunity for health systems, physicians, and community partners to collaborate in new ways that improve patient health while potentially reducing avoidable health care spending.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that support prevention, innovation, and better health outcomes for patients nationwide. Texas Health Resources looks forward to working with Congress and the Administration to support the successful implementation and evaluation of this important model.

Thank you for your commitment to improving the health of the communities we serve. If you have any questions or require further information, please reach out to Joel Ballew, Vice President, Government and Community Affairs, at joelballew@texashealth.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barclay E. Berdan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barclay" and last name "Berdan" clearly distinguishable.

Barclay E. Berdan, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
Texas Health Resources