

A National Framework for Change

We look to create a different future for America's health and health care...to create a system by design, not by default.

And why? Without fundamental change we will not achieve critical, collective objectives for the health care system in America. The objectives include:

- **Promote health, wellness and prevention.** A reformed health care system will use incentives to encourage healthy behaviors, promote wellness throughout life, and routinely provide coverage for preventive care.
- **Provide everyone access to essential medical care.** A reformed health care system will ensure everyone has access to and coverage for the care they need.
- **Encourage personal involvement in health and health care.** A reformed health care system will require transparency by all, create informed and involved consumers of care, and encourage everyone to be an active participant in their health and health care.
- **Encourage greater social responsibility on the part of all health care stakeholders.** Any entity with a financial interest in American health care bears a special and broader responsibility to a society already challenged in serving the care needs for all.
- **Make care and coverage simpler and more affordable.** A reformed health care system will optimize administrative efficiency, encourage standardization, and minimize administrative costs and unnecessary litigation.
- **Create incentives for high quality, cost-effective, coordinated care.** A reformed health care system will create and align payment incentives for better coordinated care, encourage greater clinical integration, and promote chronic care management.
- **Use information to provide effective and efficient care.** A reformed health care system will speed the adoption and use of electronic health records and other health information technology to better care for patients and assess the health status of communities.

To achieve these goals, we as a nation must pursue broad-based, health care system change. Ensuring coverage for all is critical, but expanding coverage alone will not achieve the objectives required to set us on a better course of health and health care for the future.

Hundreds of discussions with key health care stakeholders have revealed core elements of health reform—elements that are essential to achieving real and meaningful change. These core elements create a National Framework for Change and define the ways in which we can make change happen. Without fundamental change the objectives above cannot be accomplished. That framework is called *Health for Life: Better Health. Better Health Care.*

The five core elements of reform in *Health for Life* are:

- **Coverage for All, Paid for By All**
- **A Focus on Wellness**
- **Most Efficient, Affordable Care**
- **Highest Quality Care**
- **Best Information**