

## Opportunities for Leadership

Attached is a National Framework for Change—*Health for Life*—that begins to move us in a better direction. It was developed by the combined effort of many stakeholders and is intended to lead a nation in change. It outlines the action steps that can be taken:

- By stakeholders in coalition—to push for the federal and state public policy action needed and
- By each stakeholder—to act on opportunities available to each and every one of us to improve America's health and health care.

### **By Stakeholders in Coalition**

Some improvements in America's health and health care will require changes in public policy—in the laws and regulations that shape how care is provided today. Stakeholders must harness our collective power in coalition to make system change occur. Some improvements will require changes in public policy and action on the part of federal and state governments to make that happen.

*Health for Life* includes a set of public policy ideas outlining specific changes that can be made at the federal and state level to transform health and health care in America. Those policy ideas were developed by six expert advisory groups involving experts in these issues from nearly 100 different organizations representing consumers, business, labor, insurers, physicians, nurses, hospitals, and others. These ideas represent a strong consensus across the groups of ways in which we can begin to move America in the right direction toward transforming health and health care. More detail on these public policy ideas is available under *Health for Life* at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

### **By Each Stakeholder**

In addition, many improvements are already being made without public policy change and must continue. The nation's hospitals and health systems commit to pursue excellence in the care we provide and in improving the health of our communities. But success will require everyone to commit to change and to work together. We call on others—insurers, business, physicians, health care suppliers and vendors, and government—to do their part as well.

*Health for Life* includes examples of the kinds of change each one of us can make in order to make a difference in health and health care now. The list of stakeholders is not exhaustive, and possible stakeholder contributions are not complete. But it gives us a roadmap of changes we can make by taking challenges into our own hands and reshaping them for the better. The ideas are organized based on the six aims outlined by the Institute of Medicine—aims designed to make care in this country more safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-focused.

A window of opportunity is here. Trends in health and health care in this nation are unsustainable. We can envision and create a better future for us all. We can and must choose to do so...now. Change is in our hands.