



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate  
Human Flourishing.*

January 24, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, service providers and organizations, I offer you congratulations on your election as President of the United States. We look forward to working with you and your incoming Administration to tackle the challenging issues facing our country and communities and to advance our vision for U.S. health care, which is based on principles that promote a just and equitable health care system.

Catholic health care is the largest not-for-profit provider of health care services in the nation, with 674 hospitals, over 1,500 skilled nursing and long-term care facilities, hospice, home health, assisted living, and senior housing in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Last year, Catholic hospitals provided care to 1 in 7 patients, employed 700,000 people, and had more than five million admissions.

As a Catholic health ministry, our mission and ethical standards in health care are rooted in and inseparable from the Catholic Church's teachings about the dignity of each and every human person, created in the image of God, and the related values of concern for the poor and vulnerable, justice, the common good, stewardship, and pluralism. These values form the basis for our steadfast commitment to the compelling moral implications of our health care ministry and drive CHA's long history of insisting on and working for the right of everyone to affordable, accessible health care. Access to health care is essential to promote and protect the inherent and inalienable worth and dignity of every individual. Our members are committed to providing health care services to any person in need of care, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, or any other category or status.

CHA advocates for policies that align with our values to create a health care system that is available, accessible and affordable to everyone and designed to support and promote the health and well-being of every community, including rural and urban underserved areas. We hope to be able to collaborate with your Administration in these areas.

### **Ensure a Strong Safety Net**

The Catholic health ministry is dedicated to serving those in need, young and old, throughout every stage of life, and to advocating on their behalf. Programs such as Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicare are the foundation of our nation's safety net and



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provide necessary health care services to working families, children, the elderly and the disabled. We support efforts to improve access, care and quality outcomes in these programs and to ensure providers are reimbursed fairly and adequately. While there is always room for innovative change that furthers these goals, we are deeply concerned about efforts to create per capita caps or add work requirements to Medicaid programs, which could result in eligible beneficiaries, including children and working families, being denied the care they need.

### **Protect Life and Ensure Conscience Protection**

CHA and our members support policies that allow our providers the freedom to serve, protect and defend human life from conception to natural death and to help individuals, families and communities to thrive. We advocate for conscience protections so Catholic health facilities can continue to provide health care in accordance with those religious and moral convictions. During your previous Administration, we supported and appreciated steps to ensure our members could provide care without having to perform or provide services contrary to our Catholic beliefs, such as abortions. Our faith also demands that we provide quality care to all, without regard to a patient's race, color, national origin, sex, age or any other status. We look forward to working with your new Administration to allow our members to continue to remain true to our Catholic values with respect both to declining to provide certain services we cannot provide and to providing care to all who need it, whoever they might be.

### **Provide Access, Coverage and Affordability for Everyone**

We believe that each person should have affordable access to health benefits and quality care covering essential services through each stage of life. Significant progress has been made toward this goal, but far too many are still uninsured or have coverage and care that does not fully meet their needs. The Affordable Care Act can be improved and strengthened. For example, we support extending the enhanced advance premium tax credits (APTC) due to expire at the end of 2025. We are open to exploring with your Administration innovative policy approaches for delivering care, including advanced payment models and telehealth options, to improve access and outcomes and reduce costs through integration, coordination, and prevention. Low-income, disadvantaged and rural communities in particular need our attention. To meet these needs, our national healthcare workforce shortage must be addressed.

### **Strengthen Aging and Chronic Care Services**

CHA's members are committed to excellence in care for older persons, including advanced care planning, chronic care management, and person-centered, age-friendly health care services along the continuum of care. We will support policies to strengthen our ability to provide these services, including sustainable financing, workforce development and appropriate regulatory relief. As our nation ages, it becomes increasingly apparent that affordable, quality long-term care is out of reach for a majority of those who need it now or in the future. What a powerful legacy it would be for your Administration if, under its leadership and working with providers, families, consumer groups and other stakeholders, we could lay the policy groundwork for a system of sustainable long-term care that truly honors the human dignity of all our aging seniors.



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### **Improve the Health and Well-Being of Communities and Eliminate Disparities**

CHA and its members are committed to eliminating health disparities, achieving equity in the provision and quality of health services, and ensuring a comprehensive approach to community health. We believe it is crucial to identify and eliminate health disparities and ensure that all people have access to the resources necessary to realize their utmost potential for health and well-being. In particular, the crisis in maternal health and well-being must be addressed. We support and would like to work with your Administration on policies to address the social determinants of health, including housing, nutrition, education, employment, environmental conditions and discrimination.<sup>1</sup> Supporting a robust public health system also plays an important role in the health and well-being of communities, as does strengthening not-for-profit hospitals and their community benefit programs. Finally, we support reform of our immigration system in a way that both treats all immigrants and asylum seekers in a just and humane way and protects our national interests.

Our nation today is facing many challenges, including how to create a more just, sustainable and affordable health care system that allows all to achieve their highest degree of well-being. As we move forward, we may not always agree on policy solutions, but we remain committed to working with your Administration to address these challenges. The CHA board recently articulated a new vision statement for the Catholic health ministry and a new strategic plan based on three elements. We invite you to join us in our vision of empowering bold change to elevate human flourishing. We can achieve *care for all* through a *reimagined health care system* if we, together with all people of goodwill, are *united for change*.

Once again, congratulations and we look forward to working with your Administration.

Sincerely,

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO

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<sup>1</sup> Pacem in Terris, John 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1963. 11. Beginning our discussion of the rights of man, we see that every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life; these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and finally the necessary social services. Therefore, a human being also has the right to security in cases of sickness, inability to work, widowhood, old age, unemployment, or in any other case in which he is deprived of the means of subsistence through no fault of his own.