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America's biopharmaceutical companies support health care reform that expands access to high-quality, affordable health insurance to all Americans, preserves patient and provider choices, fights chronic disease and advances medical innovation for the benefit of our nation's health and economy.

Chronic Disease

America's biopharmaceutical companies recognize that chronic disease is one of our nation's greatest health care challenges.

Nearly half of all Americans suffer from at least one chronic illness, and chronic disease has become the number one cause of death and disability in the U.S. In addition to costing patients' lives, spending on patients with chronic disease costs the U.S. health care system more than \$1.7 trillion (75% of total health care spending) each year.

If our nation is serious about finding ways to control health care spending and reform the U.S. health care system, then we must look for solutions to resolve the high cost of chronic disease.

Many chronic diseases can be prevented and the progression of disease can be slowed by adopting healthy lifestyles and managing the conditions through the appropriate use of medications, many of which prevent the need for other costly health care services, such as doctor visits and hospitalizations. We believe health care policies should focus resources on preventing chronic illness – not just treating it.

We believe that policies to address the rising cost of health care should address the system as a whole – not just any one factor.

Policies that encourage prevention of chronic conditions, ensure access to early detection and diagnosis of these diseases, and promote adherence to medication regimens are essential to reducing the impact of chronic disease on Americans' health and our health care system.

Biopharmaceutical companies are dedicated to continuing to discover and develop innovative medicines to fight chronic disease.

We support policies and sponsor programs like the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (www.fightchronicdisease.org) and the Council for American Medical Innovation (www.americanmedicalinnovation.org) that encourage future opportunities to innovate and fight chronic disease, including strong protection of intellectual property and promotion of a business environment that encourages risk-taking and rewards investment in research.