



## **Consensus Statement on Health Equity**

**Updated as of 1/2/23**

Our current health system came of age when racial segregation and many other forms of discrimination based on such things as gender identity and sexual orientation, disability, and other factors were sanctioned by custom and law. Widely practiced discrimination bred structured health inequities for historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups and other marginalized populations whom society decided to disadvantage. The U.S. health care system has dismantled the outward manifestation of segregated care so that race/ethnicity is no longer the explicit discriminator. However, the legacy system continues to bolster discriminatory practices and policies and has replaced the language of segregation with new discriminators. These discriminators, such as location, personal income, and employment and insurance status disproportionately impact the historically marginalized. The net result is that structured health inequities remain.

### **Commitment to Action**

Piecemeal solutions are no longer an option. It is time for a complete transformation of the health care system to promote unbiased structures and processes to advance equitable access to quality health care for all. This includes addressing all societal, structural, financial, and policy determinations that are products of – and reinforce – historical bias. We, as the leaders of the nation's patient groups and partner organizations, commit to working together to end structural discrimination in the health care system and align on a successful strategy for reform. We call on our nation's leaders to join us. Patient and partner organizations are uniquely positioned to lead the health ecosystem towards equity. We commit to elevating the patient voice and reframing conversations to manage the health, financial, and other risks patients face over managing financial liability to the health system. Specifically, we will work to:

- Promote an inclusive, equitable, accessible, and high-quality care delivery system;
- Advocate for equitable access to affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage;
- Partner with organizations that have a track record in addressing social drivers of health to reduce health inequities;
- Collaborate with the biomedical and health-services research and the health economics ecosystem to support equity in development and valuation of new and innovative treatments and services.

- Improve collection and reporting of demographic data in research to include race/ethnicity, disability status, age, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, and other factors to help identify and eliminate biases; and
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in my organization and the patient advocacy community.

We recognize that health inequity is a highly complex problem. Effective solutions will require action from across the entire health ecosystem and collaboration with organizations outside the health care sphere, including policymakers at all levels of government, employers, health insurers, researchers, clinicians, caregivers, patients, and others.

We, as organizations representing and advocating for health care for all people regardless of race/ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, or country of origin, etc., must commit to take action within our organizations and the communities we serve to reduce health inequities.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
 Alliance for Aging Research  
 Alpha-1 Foundation  
 Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's  
 Impact Movement  
 American Association on Health and  
 Disability  
 American Foundation for Suicide  
 Prevention  
 American Heart Association  
 American Kidney Fund  
 American Liver Foundation  
 American Lung Association  
 American Urological Association  
 Amputee Coalition  
 Arthritis Foundation  
 Arthritis National Research Foundation  
 Association for Vascular Access  
 Association of Black Cardiologists  
 Association of Schools and Colleges of  
 Optometry  
 Autoimmune Association  
 Barth Syndrome Foundation  
 Beyond Celiac  
 Caregiver Action Network  
 Celiac Disease Foundation  
 COPD Foundation

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
 Cure SMA  
 Diabetes Leadership Council  
 Diabetes Patient Advocacy  
 Coalition  
 Epilepsy Foundation  
 EveryLife Foundation for Rare  
 Diseases  
 Family Heart Foundation  
 GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
 Global Liver Institute  
 GO2 for Lung Cancer  
 Hemophilia Federation of America  
 Huntington's Disease Society of  
 America  
 Hydrocephalus Association  
 Immune Deficiency Foundation  
 ISPOR — The Professional Society  
 for Health Economics and  
 Outcomes Research  
 LUNgevity Foundation  
 Lupus Foundation of America  
 Mental Health America  
 NAMI - National Alliance on Mental  
 Illness  
 National Alliance for Caregiving

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser  
Coalitions  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Blood Clot Alliance  
National Eczema Association  
National Foundation for Ectodermal  
Dysplasias  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Minority Quality Forum  
National MS Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Parexel  
Pharmacy Quality Alliance  
Prevent Blindness  
Research!America  
RESOLVE: The National Infertility  
Association  
Sjogren's Foundation  
Society for Women's Health Research  
SOLVE M.E.  
Spina Bifida Association  
The ALS Association  
The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of  
America  
The LAM Foundation  
The Marfan Foundation  
The Mended Hearts, Inc.  
The Multiple System Atrophy Coalition  
The Myositis Association  
The National Foundation to End Child  
Abuse and Neglect  
The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
UnidosUS