



**REFORMING GOVERNMENT.
EMPOWERING PATIENTS.**

2023 Annual Report

paragoninstitute.org

Paragon on the Road

In 2023, Paragon had impact in Washington, DC, and far beyond.



“Paragon is the culmination of a lifetime of effort, and I’m glad you’re part of the journey.”

— Brian Blase

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the President	4
Paragon by the Numbers.....	6
Health Care is Deeply Personal.....	8
Team Update	10
Key Work	
Research Papers	12
Testimonies.....	15
Congressional Health Policy Education Program.....	16
Looking Ahead	18
Board and Public Advisors	19

Copyright © 2024 Paragon Health Institute

All parts of this publication are protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to reproduce, store in a retrieval system, or transmit in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other — as well as modify the work as long as proper attribution is given to the authors and Paragon Health Institute as the original publication source, and a link to the Paragon Health Institute website (www.paragoninstitute.org) is provided.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Brian C. Blase, PhD
*President,
Paragon Health Institute*

ABOVE: Brian on the Capitol steps in December of 1997.

To the Capitol steps and back again!

Dear Paragon Friend:

As a high school senior in December 1997, I visited Washington DC for the first time. It was part of an immersive experience to learn about policymaking in our nation's capital. I participated in mock legislative debates and was part of the leadership team trying to get a juvenile justice bill across the finish line. That experience, combined with my love of the United States and my passion to expand freedom and opportunity in our great country, convinced me that I wanted to dedicate my career to improving public policy and limiting government.

In 2017, I reached the pinnacle of policymaking — the National Economic Council at the White House. And in that capacity, I advised the president of the United States and led the implementation of several major policy reforms.

In the summer of 2021, two years after I left the White House, I was presented with the opportunity to start a nonprofit policy organization. At first, I wasn't sure whether I wanted to do this. My family had recently moved out of the Washington DC area to northern Florida, I loved what I was doing for work, and I only had to manage myself.

Through many conversations with my wife and former trusted colleagues, I decided that I could only do so much as an individual. Building a team and leading others in a common direction would be the best way to develop ideas and implement policy reforms if an opportunity presented itself in 2025 with a new administration and Congress. And thus, Paragon was born.

Paragon is building the ideas and training the people who will develop the next

generation of policy reform. When we go to the Hill to host our Congressional Health Policy Education Program events, I see legislators-, researchers-, and advocates-in-training climbing the Capitol steps. And I get to see how much respect key policymakers and members of the media have for Paragon — our experts and the policy and products we produce.

Paragon's efforts are already having an impact on policy. Our research paper *The HSA Option* inspired the ACCESS Act, a bill introduced in September 2023, by Representatives Kat Cammack and Greg Steube, both members of powerful committees. The bill aims to give lower-income Americans more control over their health care. "With money in an HSA, you can obtain the personalized services you need, and see the doctors you trust, even if they're not covered by your health insurance plan," according to Rep. Cammack. "For working families in my district and across the country," she said, "this option is a lifesaver."

If there is one thing that sets Paragon apart, it's our

focus on people: Both the team members who execute and invigorate our mission, and the hard-working American families we serve.

As the nation approaches an important election this fall, significant reform opportunities await a new Congress and potentially a new administration. Paragon is laying the groundwork with a practical policy roadmap of legislative reforms and administrative actions. Unfortunately, the Biden administration has taken many misguided steps over the past three years, resulting in the empowerment of Washington bureaucracy and the reduction of patient choice and control. A new administration could reverse many of these policies, which could give employers greater options for offering health coverage; offer individuals more options for obtaining coverage and greater control of their health care finances; ensure that public dollars support people in need instead of special interests; and enable innovation rather than stifling it.

Standing on the Capitol steps over twenty-five years ago, I could not imagine the

adventure that lay ahead, and the role the small-but-mighty Paragon team would play in making life better for all Americans.

Paragon will be ready for policymaking next year — to reform broken government programs, empower patients with greater control, reduce wasteful government spending, and increase Americans' health care freedom. All of this would not be possible without the support, financial and otherwise, that you have given to Paragon.

I'm so excited to share with you all that we have accomplished in the pages ahead.

In deep gratitude,



Brian C. Blase

Brian C. Blase
President

PARAGON HEALTH INSTITUTE:

BY THE NUMBERS

IN 2023, PARAGON CONTINUED ITS TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS.

Highlighted outlets that published at least one op-ed by Paragon's experts:

The Wall Street Journal, Health Affairs, Forbes, Fox Business, National Review, the New York Post, Newsweek, The Hill, and Townhall.

Highlighted outlets that quoted Paragon's experts or mentioned our work:

The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Axios, Bloomberg, CNBC, Forbes, Huffington Post, Inside Health Policy, National Review, Politico, RealClear Policy, STAT, the Washington Examiner, and The Washington Times.

Our experts appeared on the following TV and radio programs:

C-SPAN's Washington Journal, Ask Dr. Drew, and Marketplace.

MENTIONS OR
QUOTES IN
EXTERNAL MEDIA
OUTLETS

55

CONGRESSIONAL
TESTIMONIES

4

MEDIA
APPEARANCES

22

RESEARCH PAPERS

15

POLICY BRIEFS

5

CONGRESSIONAL
HEALTH POLICY
EDUCATION
ATTENDEES

381

OP-EDS

48



ABOVE: Brian Blase on Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollment and new research on ACA exchange issues. C-SPAN *Washington Journal*, Nov. 24, 2023.



ABOVE: Dr. Joel Zinberg talked about a report on refocusing and reforming the CDC after COVID-19. C-SPAN *Washington Journal*, Aug. 11, 2023.



ABOVE: Theo Merkel testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget during their hearing, "Improving Care, Lowering Costs: Achieving Health Care Efficiency." Oct. 18, 2023.



ABOVE: Joe Albanese testified before the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Oversight Subcomm., "MACRA Checkup: Assessing Implementation and Challenges That Remain for Patients and Doctors". June 22, 2023.



HEALTH CARE IS DEEPLY PERSONAL

Gabrielle Kalisz
*Program Manager,
Paragon Health Institute*

It was a Thursday night during my sophomore year at American University when the intersection between policy and real life became crystal clear.

I was studying for an upcoming economics midterm when I looked down at my hands and noticed a red, splotchy rash. “Stress hives,” I thought. I moved on to more flashcards, chalking up my fever and warm-to-the-touch skin to test anxiety.

It was midnight when I looked in the mirror and frantically called my parents, who answered my FaceTime with gasps that could be heard 1,200 miles away. Every inch of my body and face had been engulfed by red bumps. You could have fried an egg on my skin. My “stress hives” were a rare version of Stevens-Johnson syndrome. “Toxic epidermal necrolysis” was causing the organelles in my skin to burn apart from each other slowly, eventually exposing the bloodstream as the building blocks of my skin melted away. I woke up over 24 hours later in an isolated burn room; my dad was sleeping, crunched up in a harsh hospital chair, when the doctor explained, nearly as sterile as the walls around him, “You’re lucky to be alive.”

After several rounds of tests, I received an underlying diagnosis that would change my life and career forever. I had a choice: Give up on my dreams and receive treatment back at home in Illinois or stay in school while working several jobs to afford care in Washington, DC. Despite my insurance company’s pleas, I chose the latter and continued my education at American University.

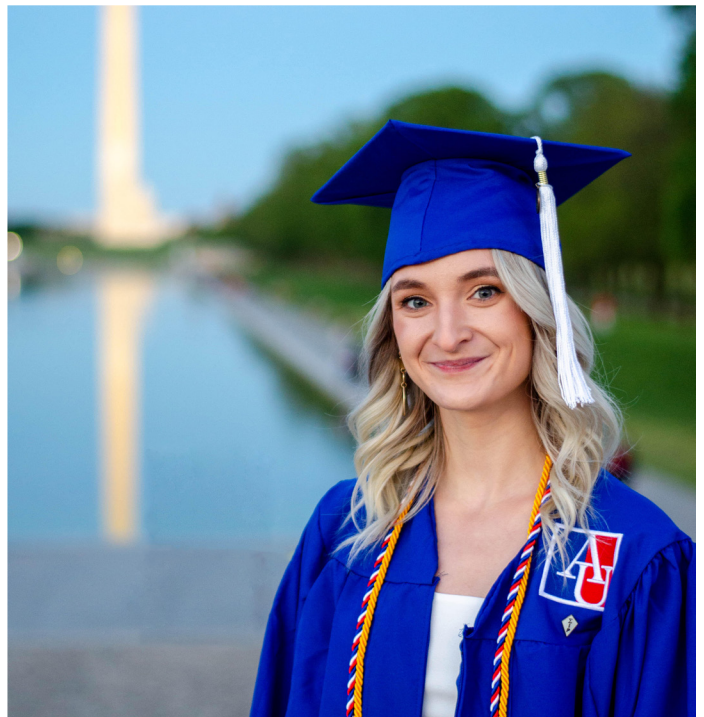
“Tests” and “exams” took on new meaning for me. My homework now included studying insurance coverage, claims denials, hospital reviews, and ‘How to Advocate for Yourself as a Patient’ books. Extracurriculars were mostly doctor visits and trips to the Dean of Students for extensions. Every day, I petitioned for changes in my coverage’s geographic restrictions. I fiercely advocated for myself to receive the treatment and care that would keep me alive and well, all while more than a thousand miles from my family.

Now imagine all of the Americans who weren’t and aren’t as lucky. Millions lack the knowledge and resources to navigate the bureaucracy. Our health system is complicated, dense, segmented, and separated from our personhood — which is especially jarring because *health care is deeply personal*.

Government reports and health expenditures are not just numbers. They are everyone around you: your grandmother, pregnant sister, disabled uncle, best friend, the person next door, and yourself. Health care intertwines with the fabric of our lives, influencing our decisions, communities, and quality of life.

My path to working in health policy was not driven by statistics, government reports, or abstract theories but by real-world experiences and the profound realization of how health care and policy decisions impacted my life. I dedicate my career to health policy to truly contribute to meaningful change; make diagnoses and health challenges less paralyzing; empower patients to maximize their agency; and ensure that the health care sector promotes innovation for better treatments, processes, and cures.

Making a difference requires a strong commitment and fiery passion to dismantle the status quo and serve the greater good. Americans depend on us to make changes that will add meaningful years to their lives, create opportunities for more laughter and joy, and protect them from being paralyzed in the face of deep and intimate challenges. I work towards these goals daily at Paragon, and the sentiment is interwoven into every recommendation or paper we release. At Paragon, we are acutely aware that the influence and reputation we have built gives us an amazing opportunity to help people in this country — it's a situation of access or disenfranchisement, health or illness, life or death. We owe it to ourselves to clear a path towards a more empowered and healthy American life.



TEAM UPDATE

Emma Gallutia

Research Assistant

Emma Gallutia started work with Paragon in August of 2023, helping with background research and data analysis. Her efforts have helped to substantiate the work of Paragon's authors by compiling the minute details that form the foundation of the organization's research papers. Notably, she successfully navigated the federal government's complicated processes to get data to support projects under Paragon's Medicare Initiative. Emma is also an in-house reviewer for all of Paragon's important papers, and her hawk-eyed accuracy has saved many an author from costly typos.



Gabrielle Kalisz

Program Manager

Joining Paragon in August of 2023, Gabrielle "Elle" Kalisz has eagerly carried the baton since day one. Along with Paragon's Director of Communications and Operations, Elle serves as a key piece of Paragon's day-to-day management. Among her many duties, Elle coordinates Paragon's many research projects and priorities. Elle also blesses Paragon with her creative talents, planning and publishing a weekly Tweet thread to support the release of the newest Paragon Pic data visualization and creating presentations for Paragon's events. In 2024, Elle will be instrumental in organizing Paragon's policy proposals ahead of the November elections.



Jennifer Tringale

Office Assistant

Jenn Tringale joined Paragon in March of 2023. Jenn oversees many important projects for Paragon, including managing contact lists and the office. Most notably, she organizes Paragon's Congressional Health Policy Education Program. In that role, Jenn coordinates the organization's events, scheduling, logistics, and post-event analysis. A quick-thinking problem solver, Jenn is a tremendous asset to the Paragon team who is always eager to learn and grow.





KEYES SELECTED TO ADVISE THE SPEAKER ON HEALTH POLICY

It's not often that an organization will celebrate the loss of a good employee. For Paragon Health Institute, we were fortunate to have had Drew Keyes for a short but impactful period of time until he was asked to serve his country in a new position — working with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson as a senior policy advisor. Our situation speaks to the unusual nature of think tanks — when the time is right, we want our alumni to go on to great things for other organizations, most likely in government, in order to be in positions to implement good policies. We're a young organization, and Drew is our first alumnus to return to government service. If you can't already tell, we're so very proud — not just because of Drew's policy work and approach, but because of his good character.

They say you can tell a lot about a person by the way they treat day-to-day workers: hostesses, crossing guards, cleaning ladies, and bus drivers, to name a few. Drew is always,

always kind to everyone he interacts with, including cashiers, dry cleaners, and baristas. Not only that: He knows their names. He asks what's happening with their families and in their lives, and he remembers.

Best of all, Drew's genuine approach with every person he meets is one he tries to inculcate in his peers. "Health policy is always personal," Drew wrote in a 2023 policy brief geared towards his Congressional colleagues. "The key then," he advised, "is to always position your boss to lead with empathy, not simply to appear empathetic."

To Drew, the most important people are hard-working everyday Americans.

Speaker Johnson made an excellent choice — not only does Drew have the policy chops to make the changes necessary to improve life for Americans, he's also a man of upstanding character who keeps foremost in his mind the real people who are impacted by the policy he is helping to craft.

Congratulations Drew!

KEY RESEARCH AND TESTIMONY



The Cost of Good Intentions: The Harm of Delaying the Disenrollment of Medicaid Ineligibles

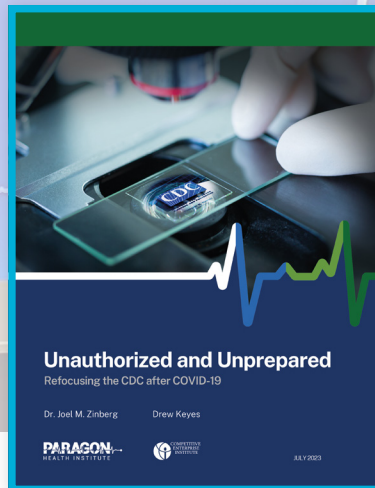
INITIATIVE: Medicaid

AUTHORS: Drew Gonshorowski, Brian Blase, and Niklas Kleinworth

RELEASE DATE: July 17, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: As of April 2023, the Medicaid program was spending about \$6.8 billion a month on ineligible enrollees, with a state share of nearly \$2 billion. Nearly all individuals transitioning off the program will obtain other coverage or have access to subsidized coverage.

IMPACT: On August 7, 2023, *The Cost of Good Intentions* was cited by the House Committee on the Budget, which shared Paragon's finding that there "are now over 18 million ineligible enrollees in the Medicaid program as of April 2023." The piece was further bolstered by an August 14th, 2023, *Wall Street Journal* op-ed by Brian Blase.



Unauthorized and Unprepared: Refocusing the CDC after COVID-19

INITIATIVE: Public Health

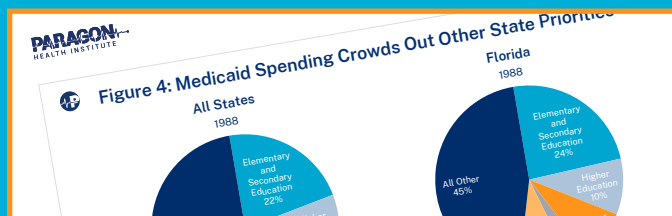
AUTHORS: Drew Keyes and Dr. Joel M. Zinberg

RELEASE DATE: July 24, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: Instead of blindly increasing funding, Congress should comprehensively authorize the CDC for the first time and reaffirm the agency's core mission. Congress must delineate the agency's responsibilities by cutting back on areas where the CDC does not have expertise and duplicates other authorized agencies' programs.

IMPACT: Joel Zinberg appeared on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal* on August 11, 2023, to discuss Paragon's findings with host Mimi Geerges and answer audience questions. *Unauthorized and Unprepared* was also promoted by Dr. Zinberg's Fox News op-ed, published on August 15th, 2023.

PARAGON has issued 15 research papers on timely issues facing Congress and policymakers.



Health Care Price Transparency: Achievements, Challenges, and Next Steps

INITIATIVE: Private Health

AUTHOR: Theo Merkel

RELEASE DATE: August 2, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: Instead of consolidating more decision-making power in the technocrat class, patients and employers should be enabled to explore their options with providers and payers competing to provide the highest value. When patients have had both the incentive and pricing information to shop for care, the result has been cost savings.

IMPACT: *Health Care Price Transparency* led to an invitation for Theo Merkel to testify before Congress. On October 18, 2023, Merkel served as a witness during the Senate Committee on the Budget hearing “Improving Care, Lowering Costs: Achieving Health Care Efficiency”, explaining “Fully implemented, [price transparency] could save tens of billions of dollars per year in the commercial market alone.”



Short-Term Health Plans, Long-Term Benefits: States that Allow Short-Term Coverage Have Stronger Health Insurance Markets

INITIATIVE: Private Health

AUTHOR: Brian Blase

RELEASE DATE: September 7, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: From 2018 to 2023, ACA markets fared better in states allowing short-term health insurance, with higher enrollment and lower premiums, suggesting potential harm from proposed federal restrictions on these policies.

IMPACT: *Short-Term Health Plans* was referenced in two unique public comments submitted on September 11, 2023. One letter from two Indiana state representatives used Paragon’s research to bolster their claim that “there is no benefit to the ACA individual market from states restricting STLDI,” while a separate letter from the Center of the American Experiment repeated Paragon’s finding that the “ACA individual market, regardless of metric, has performed better in states that fully permit STLDI.”

These research papers
continue to cement
PARAGON's influence as
a leader in the free market
health policy space.

Health Care in the Next Term and Congress: One-Page Briefings for a 2025 Agenda

INITIATIVE: Medicaid, Medicare, Private Health, Public Health

AUTHORS: Brian Blase, Joe Albanese, Gary Alexander, Drew Keyes, Demetrios Kouzoukas, Theo Merkel, and Joel Zinberg

RELEASE DATE: September 27, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: These briefing documents can be used to help policymakers and those who seek to be policymakers craft a winning agenda that would improve health policy in the United States and that can be clearly communicated to the American people.

IMPACT: One day after the release of the four one-pagers, *The Washington Post* featured the pieces in their Health 202 newsletter, saying that Brian Blase “believes [the agenda] should be a road map for both Republicans and Democrats.”

Escaping from Medicare's Flawed Physician Payment System

INITIATIVE: Medicare

AUTHOR: Joe Albanese

RELEASE DATE: December 7, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: While maintaining patient access to physician services is important, simply tying payment rates to inflation would increase costs without ensuring the accuracy of those rates. Policymakers should tie increases to physician payment in Medicare to other policy changes such as reducing overpayments on other Part B services, reforming the Physician Fee Schedule, and eliminating or significantly reforming failed efforts to promote “value-based care.”

IMPACT: Reforms to Medicare's physician payment system have been frequently discussed in the 118th Congress. Joe delivered similar findings from this paper in his testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on June 22 and October 19, 2023. He has also been invited by other health policy experts to share his analysis on this issue, including as a reviewer for MedPAC's June 2024 Report to Congress.



Long-Term Care: The Solution

INITIATIVE: Medicaid

AUTHORS: Stephen A. Moses

RELEASE DATE: October 3, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: Lawmakers should eliminate the ability to access publicly funded long-term care (LTC) while preserving wealth, and instead encourage long-term care savings from an early age so that scarce Medicaid LTC funds can be preserved for the truly needy.

IMPACT: In support of the paper, Paragon hosted an all-star virtual event on January 9th, 2024. Panelists included Paragon Visiting Fellow Stephen Moses, AEI's Mark J. Warshawsky, and Urban Institute's Richard W. Johnson, with moderation by AgeWave's CEO and Founder Ken Dychtwald. The event was a smashing success, with a record 205 signups and 106 virtual attendees.

Resisting the Wave of Medicaid Expansion: Why Florida Is Right

INITIATIVE: Medicaid, Private Health

AUTHORS: Brian Blase and Drew Gonshorowski

RELEASE DATE: December 17, 2023

KEY TAKEAWAY: There is no evidence that Floridians overall would receive health benefits from expansion, and the financial impact on hospitals is unclear. Adopting Medicaid expansion would make Florida increasingly dependent on the federal government and vulnerable when the federal government eventually lowers the enhanced rate for the expansion population.

IMPACT: This report was bolstered by a December 17, 2023, op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* that declared "DeSantis Is Right About Medicaid." Next, on January 10th, 2024, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis referenced Paragon's report during a presidential primary debate with Nikki Haley, saying: "I can tell you this, expanding Medicaid leads to less private coverage." As Paragon's paper explains, "nearly two-thirds of new Medicaid enrollees would simply replace private coverage," so the governor did his homework!

TESTIMONIES

Paragon's experts went back-to-back with testimonies in October of 2023, testifying on consecutive days before each chamber.

Improving Care, Lowering Costs: Achieving Health Care Efficiency

COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on the Budget

WITNESS: Theo Merkel

DATE: October 18, 2023

KEY MOMENT: Question from Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) — "What can we learn from Medicare Part D to apply to other federal health care programs?"

ANSWER FROM THEO MERKEL: "One of my key take-aways from Part D is there is often, especially with entitlements, a perceived unnecessary tension between providing benefits and getting value for both beneficiaries and taxpayers. Part D has been able to show that this tension does not need to exist. The accountability of Part D plans is not just to the government or bureaucrats but also to beneficiaries."

What's the Prognosis? Examining Medicare Proposals to Improve Patient Access to Care and Minimize Red Tape for Doctors

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

WITNESS: Joe Albanese

DATE: October 19, 2023

KEY MOMENT: Question from Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) — "Are there alternatives to APMs [Alternative Payment Models]?"

ANSWER FROM JOE ALBANESE: "I think that in Medicare Advantage, you see a structure that is very similar to APMs and in value-based care because they receive population-based payments... The difference is that they've actually proven to deliver core Medicare benefits at 83% of the cost of traditional Medicare, and they have grown in popularity, with more than half of Medicare beneficiaries now choosing to enroll in an MA plan."



CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH POLICY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Paragon's Congressional Health Policy Education Program Continues its Track Record of Success

In 2023, Paragon held a policy boot-camp for new congressional staffers in February with approximately 100 attendees, plus nine additional educational briefings during the year.

Audience engagement at our events remains high. Paragon collects attendees' questions via an app, which saves time and increases engagement. For most events, we get so many questions we don't have time to answer them all, so we follow-up with guests later.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

Based in part on our paper *Unauthorized & Unprepared: Refocusing the CDC after COVID-19*, our July 2023 event focused on the

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) and potential reforms to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Following a guest appearance by Paragon Public Advisor Marty Makary, Paragon's Drew Keyes and Joel Zinberg were joined by Bryan Shuy, a former top official at HHS, in reviewing the original purpose of the CDC and their policy recommendations.

In October 2023, we convened Paragon's Theo Merkel and Aetion's Lowell Schiller in our first sequel event, Drug Pricing 102. The presentation focused on supply-side issues that impact drug prices in the United States, including the research, development, and approval process. The speakers discussed mechanisms that can lower drug prices, including generic drugs, biologics, and biosimilars.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we build to national elections later this year, there are many uncertainties facing our country. But one thing is sure: that health policy will remain a pressing issue that affects the lives of each and every one of us.

With our social safety nets on a path for bankruptcy and regulations favoring insurers and providers over patients, our nation is also at a critical juncture. The decisions we make in the coming months will decide whether we pursue the same failed approaches of the past or chart a fresh course for patient empowerment and government reform. Ignoring it would just push us closer to crisis.

Fortunately, we have developed a robust path forward and our team at Paragon is uniquely equipped to rise to this challenge. Our 2025 Agenda takes vastly complex regulations and equips policymakers to advance meaningful reforms that will:

- Support Americans in their time of need by ending policies — like the ACA’s Medicaid expansion — that harm the most vulnerable, promoting access to care and self-sufficiency, and fixing long-term care.
- Protect hard-working families and seniors by improving incentives and safeguarding programs from waste, fraud, and abuse, and well as equipping states to innovate in programs, improving access and controlling program financing.
- Focus on people instead of industry by breaking the cycle of subsidies that throw good money after bad, expanding coverage options for families and small businesses, promoting transparency, and allowing Americans to keep more of their own money for them to use on care now and in the future.
- Empower entrepreneurs and innovators to improve American health by cutting burdensome regulation that stifles innovation, expanding competition, and trusting Americans to make the decisions that are best for them through personal knowledge, not mandates.

Together, we can build a new vision for American health. One that embraces the unique needs of every patient and provides solutions that work for us all. We didn’t reach this place overnight and the solutions will take time, but we are ready with the critical first steps — and with your support, we will have the tools to make this vision a reality.

BOARD & PUBLIC ADVISORS

Board of Directors

Joseph Grogan
Daniel Rothschild
Christina Sandefur
Lester “Leck” Shannon
David Steffy

Public Advisors

Amy L. Anderson
Doug Badger
Ge Bai
Chuck Blahous
Dean F. Clancy
John J. Dreyzehner
Joe Grogan
Allan Hubbard
Yuval Levin
Naomi Lopez
Marty Makary
Paul Mango
Casey Mulligan
Stephen Parente
Tomas J. Philipson
Roy Ramthun
Carl J. Schramm
Abe Sutton
Tevi Troy
Grace-Marie Turner
Eric Ueland
Larry Van Horn
Paul Winfree

BOLD IDEAS & COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS

“Given the importance of reducing health care costs in order to address the long-term budget outlook, the Paragon report [*Turning the Tide on Red Ink*] is a welcomed compilation of reforms that could help lower health care costs, sustain Medicare’s finances, lower deficits, and combat inflation.

— COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET
APRIL 6, 2023

“Research by [Paragon Health Institute’s] Brian Blase has shown that, pre-COVID, Obamacare enrollment drops were less in robust STM states versus restrictive states. Critics that predicted many would leave the Obamacare market under STMs were just wrong.

— REALCLEAR POLICY
JULY 13, 2023

“Paragon says delaying [redeterminations] “pulls resources away from other public priorities and primarily benefits health insurance companies that administer Medicaid.”

— AXIOS
JULY 17, 2023

“A... data analysis from the Paragon Health Institute shows that... state individual markets had much more favorable trends in states that fully permitted STLDI. In other words, there is no benefit to the ACA individual market from states restricting STLDI.

— PUBLIC COMMENT BY INDIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVES
MARTIN CARBAUGH AND MATTHEW LEHMAN
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

“Paragon Health Institute... put out its [2025 policy guide] today, which [Brian] Blase... believes... should be a road map for both Republicans and Democrats.

— THE WASHINGTON POST
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

“The HSA option would allow lower-income enrollees to have another way to access their subsidy for an exchange plan. The bill allows enrollees much greater control over how to use the funds to best meet their preferences and needs. An HSA can be used to help Americans pay out-of-network costs and expenses like vision, dental, and hearing care.

— PRESS RELEASE FROM US REPRESENTATIVE KAY CAMMACK (R-FL)
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023