



July 26, 2021

## At the Table

There's a saying in the public policy arena to beware that "if you're not *at* the table, you may be *on* the table."

For Lutheran social ministry organizations--where so much of our work is influenced, regulated by and/or funded through public policies--it's important to be at the table. The voice of a \$22 billion faith-based network is especially important as our members reflect our faith-based missions, our real-life experience of what works and what doesn't on the ground, and our desire that all people--from children to older adults, people with disabilities, refugees, people experiencing homelessness and more--thrive and achieve their full potential.

I had the opportunity last week to participate in the first listening session that CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure had with 10 national health and human services leaders. It was an opportunity to highlight the phenomenal work that you do and to raise critical issues that you face such as the workforce crisis.

As we emerge from the pandemic, an important public policy question is what does the U.S. public health system need to look like going forward? Having been on the frontlines of the pandemic, it's particularly significant for Lutheran social ministry.

The Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington, DC has organized a coalition of organizations to develop a five-year roadmap to guide public health leaders and elected officials in formulating a plan for a more robust and sustainable public health system. The project, [Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System](#), will define a vision and capabilities to promote health, prevent disease, and protect communities across the country.

I'm honored to be asked to participate in the Bipartisan Policy Center [task force](#) made up of current and former elected officials at the federal, state and local level, business leaders, and representatives in the healthcare field to review input and develop recommendations.

To inform the work, you are invited to complete a [short survey](#) which is being conducted in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



If you don't have time to complete the survey, I'd still like to hear from you—to understand your perspective and make sure that your voice is heard. Because the voice of a faith-based network that works with one in 50 Americans *matters*--and is more important than ever in achieving our shared mission, living our shared values, and transforming the lives of people across the country.

In gratitude for all that you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Haberaecker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Charlotte Haberaecker**  
**President and CEO**