MISSION
To champion good health and good health care policies as vital to advancing economic growth and prosperity.

BACKGROUND
Disease is poised to inflict an immense toll on global economic growth. In developed and developing countries alike, the incidence of diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes has rapidly increased, claiming 63% of all deaths. These diseases occur mostly in adults, hitting workers in their prime years of productivity—creating long-term chronic conditions, withdrawal from the workforce, diminished family resources, and early death.

To help address this challenge, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched an initiative in 2015 focused on establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships in the fight against chronic disease. The Global Initiative on Health and the Economy builds a unique forum that engages finance, trade, planning, and health ministries in partnering toward improved health goals by promoting innovative health strategies.

The work complements existing programs by sector-specific associations and non-government groups by elevating the relationship between health and economic competitiveness at the most senior levels of government. Through the Chamber’s global platform, we seek to advocate for business as a partner in identifying competitiveness solutions at international forums as well as convene specific in-capital outreach programs in key markets. These efforts are undertaken in cooperation with local business associations and health care communities.

PROGRAM GOALS
The Global Initiative on Health and the Economy assembles forums that bring together government decision makers, community influencers, and key business interests in conversations about the economic importance of health. The meetings are held in partnership with local business associations and focus on ways in which improved collaboration between the public and private sectors can achieve greater health outcomes.
Global Initiative on 
HEALTH AND ECONOMY
Creating solutions to global health and workforce competitiveness challenges

RECENT PROGRAMS

SAUDI ARABIA—
Riyadh, December 7, 2015
In partnership with the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce, the Saudi Committee on Investment and Trade, and the American Business Group of Riyadh, the Chamber co-hosted a 40-person roundtable event on health titled Exploring the Role of the Public and Private Sectors in the Promotion of Health. The event convened representatives from the Saudi Ministry of Health, the Saudi Diabetes Care Centers, the National Industrial Clusters Development Program, the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz University Hospital, the Huntsman Cancer Institute, and Johns Hopkins Aramco.

CHINA—
Guangzhou, November 22, 2015
On the sidelines of the annual U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT), the Chamber supported the U.S.-China government-hosted Healthcare Cooperative Program, Achieving a Successful Health and Healthcare Ecosystem. Participants included U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, USTR Ambassador Michael Froman, and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang as well as representatives from China’s Ministry of Commerce, the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

BRAZIL—
Brasilia, December 9, 2015
In cooperation with the Brazil-U.S. Business Council and the Brazilian National Confederation of Industries, the Chamber co-hosted a conference on the Impact of Health on Productivity and Economic Development. The mission included meetings for members with the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Health Surveillance Agency; the Ministry of Labor; and members of Congress.
POLICY GOALS

The policy mission of the Global Initiative on Health and the Economy is to promote a fiscal and regulatory understanding of the role that wellness and disease prevention play in economic productivity and cost savings.

Key Recommendations

Organizational Structure

The global health crisis requires a “whole of government,” a “whole of business,” and a “whole of society” response. Through a better understanding of different strengths and incentives, we can promote platforms that help bring together the public sector, the private sector, and NGO’s in a common cause.

Health Care Financing

Because millions of people across the world are forced into poverty every year when a family member falls seriously ill, it is critical that governments better understand the need for balanced funding systems. This includes using public insurance, access to private insurance, out-of-pocket payments, as well as charity and aid.

Health Delivery Systems

Technology has provided enormous improvements in our ability to deliver health care. Whether applied to the infrastructure of clinics, hospitals, and health care centers, or to the models for delivering health care information.

Trade and Investment Policies

Governments that promote favorable business environments through creating competition, adopting transparency measures, fighting corruption, and protecting intellectual property are best positioned to provide access to health care for their citizens. Sound trade and investment policies are the only way to ensure that innovative health care products and services can be financed, developed, and delivered.
Poor Health in Working Age Adults Will Cost Countries
An Average of 7.4% of GDP by 2030

* %GDP lost due to absenteeism, presenteeism, and early retirement.
Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, 2015
EVIDENCE BASED ADVOCACY

The Global Initiative on Health and Economy uses economic evidence to demonstrate the significant impact adult chronic disease (cancer, diabetes, lung, and heart disease) has on economic growth and productivity. Building off the work undertaken by the APEC Business Advisory Council, the Chamber commissioned a report which calculates the percentage of lost Gross Domestic Product a country suffers due to sickness related absenteeism, poor performance, early retirement, and early pension draw down. The overwhelming evidence serves to bolster the arguments in favor of disease prevention and early diagnosis, which in turn assigns new value to the products, services, and educational efforts supporting these goals.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Global Initiative on Health and the Economy operates under the guidance of a board composed of pharmaceutical, insurance, technology companies, as well as large multi-national employers. In 2016, the board agreed to focus on six priority countries: Brazil, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa.

For more information on how your company can become involved in this work, please contact:

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