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Washington, D.C. – The Alliance of Health Care Sharing Ministries president, Dr. Dave Weldon released the following statement after the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services issued a report – *“Reforming America’s Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition”* – outlining policies to increase choice and competition in health care:

“I’m delighted by this report from President Trump and his Administration. It boldly advocates for the removal of unnatural barriers to a competitive healthcare market by placing emphasis on the need for more consumer choice, greater purchasing value, quality of care, and the affordability and practical utilization of care.

“Health Care Sharing Ministries are an excellent example of this for our nation. It does not limit its participants to a network, or force unreasonable choices or financial constraints, while allowing participants greater flexibility, savings and value. This report accurately acknowledges that Health Care Sharing participants’ eligibility to utilize Health Savings Accounts would *“encourage individuals to keep medical spending low by encouraging less costly behaviors and greater negotiation with medical providers.”* It would also may enable employers to make contributions to these accounts helping many working families.

“I am specifically encouraged to see that this report is in agreement with Representatives Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Collin Peterson’s (D-MN) bipartisan legislation – H.R. 2310, The Faith in HSAs Act. Their legislation, like the President’s report, is about guaranteeing fairness, financial savings, and greater peace of mind to countless faith-based households currently being neglected by our nation’s outdated tax code. Its implementation will provide much needed flexibility and choice to combat rising costs of care. This will help the more than one million Americans who currently choose health care sharing to better meet their medical needs and expenses.

“As a physician and former member of Congress, I fully appreciate that enhancing healthcare quality, improving patient outcomes and reducing cost are pillars that empower patients to choose care that fits their needs, respects their beliefs and suits their budget. Consumer choice is a transformative force. It is time that we begin to harness that force to make health care in our nation truly work for patients.

“I congratulate the President on the findings and recommendations of this report and strongly urge his administration to thoughtfully expedite implementation and Congress to likewise consider and pass the recommended reforms proposed.”