Impact and Accomplishments
September 2020 – August 2021

1996 - 2021
25 YEARS
OF
ADVANCING
HEALTH
FREEDOM
The Galen Institute is a non-profit public policy research organization devoted to advancing ideas and policies to create a vibrant, patient-centered health sector. We facilitate public debate and education about proposals that support individual freedom, consumer choice, competition, and innovation in the health sector. We work to promote policies that lead to individual responsibility and control over health care and health insurance, lower costs through market competition, and a strong safety net for vulnerable populations. Galen’s policies support continued medical innovation, advances in personalized medicine, and expanded access to more affordable health care and coverage in a 21st century economy.

Our Mission

We educate policymakers about the dangers that government control over the health sector pose to our economy and our society and the vital importance of ideas that advance freedom.

Educate.

We reach out through the media to inform the public about the crucial importance of continued innovation to advance medical progress.

Inform.

We create consensus for our ideas through collaborations with thought leaders, policymakers, administration officials, physicians and other health sector leaders.

Collaborate.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I’m proud to share this year’s Annual Report that also covers some highlights of the many milestones over the Galen Institute’s 25-year history. Even prior to the official founding of Galen in 1996, we have worked every single day to educate policymakers, the public, and the media about the value of incentives for patient choice, innovation, and competition in the health sector.

We have written thousands of commentary articles for hundreds of major publications, produced book chapters, newsletters, statements, comment letters, amicus briefs, and papers, testified countless times before Congress and state legislatures, and held thousands of briefings and meeting with legislators, educators, colleagues, and the public. We have given more speeches, radio and TV interviews than we can possibly count and advised policymakers almost on a daily basis about ideas to advance health freedom.

All of this, while facilitating a positive conversation in the market-based policy community, with hundreds of participants now engaging in our Consensus Group conversations, and also while serving on numerous time-consuming federal commissions to shape policy—including the Medicaid Commission, the Long-Term Care Commission, and National Advisory Board for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Our battle against the trillions of dollars spent by governments to expand centralized control over the health sector is Sisyphean, but we are convinced it would have been lost without the work of the Galen Institute and our many Consensus Group allies. The American public wants choice and control over their health care and health decisions. We are winning hearts and minds and planting the seeds for more consumer choices. We will continue to push for freedom options against the beast of government control, never ever giving up!

Thank you for your support!

Grace-Marie Turner
25 YEARS OF ADVANCING HEALTH FREEDOM

1993
November: Grace-Marie Arnett (now Turner) called a meeting of health policy experts from three major market-based public policy research organizations to develop alternatives to Clinton administration plans that would put virtually all of the U.S. health sector under centralized Washington control.


Grace-Marie testifies before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee—the first of countless congressional testimonies to come.

1994
Grace-Marie founds the Galen Institute, a think tank dedicated to advancing free-market ideas for health reform and to building broad consensus around policies that put doctors and patients, not bureaucrats, at the center of our health sector.

March 25: Galen organizes a conference on Capitol Hill, “A Fresh Approach to Health Care Reform,” featuring 14 leading health policy economist and analysts. Consensus Group participants presented papers about deploying markets rather than government to reform the U.S. health sector and give Americans the opportunity to choose portable, affordable health coverage.

1996
Galen is actively involved in the public policy debate about extension of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, succeeding in assuring that states retain control over the program.

The papers presented at Galen’s first Capitol Hill conference are compiled into a peer-reviewed volume, “Empowering Health Care Consumers through Tax Reform,” edited by Grace-Marie and published by the University of Michigan Press.
The nation is preoccupied with federal legislation to establish a “Patients’ Bill of Rights,” another effort to exert federal control over health insurance markets that are more appropriately state regulated. The legislation was never enacted.

2000-2001

Galen was instrumental in creation of Health Savings Accounts and other programs relying on a consumer-facing, private options for public programs. Huge political pressure was making passage of a prescription drug benefit for Medicare inevitable; Galen helped shape it into a market-based program with seniors able to choose from dozens of private drug plans competing for their enrollment. This is the only major federal program that still costs significantly less than estimated. And the act was the vehicle for creation of the private, competitive Medicare Advantage program that nearly half of seniors now voluntarily join.

2003

The Bush administration proposed a health reform proposal that would have dramatically expanded consumer choice and private sector competition in the health sector and provide private health coverage to 47 million uninsured people.

2006-2009: Grace-Marie is invited to speak internationally—at the Gregorian University at the Vatican, the London School of Economics, Oxford University, the Hague and at other international forums—about market-based ideas for health reform. We also worked closely with states in creating model plans, including Healthy Indiana.

2006

We received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Promotion of Consumer Driven Health Care from Consumer Health World.

2008-2010

The debate over ObamaCare dominates the Galen Institute’s educational efforts, with Grace-Marie writing hundreds of op-eds and doing countless speeches, radio and TV interviews, and meetings to educate the public and policymakers about liberal efforts to centralize Washington control over our health sector.
2011


2012

Galen is actively involved in educating the public about the freight-train headed to our health sector after passage of ObamaCare, submitting an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court about unconstitutional provisions in the law. In just one day, for example, we wrote three op-eds, did seven radio interviews, and delivered a major speech.

2013-2014

Galen launches the ObamaCareWatch website to monitor the impact of the legislation, helps form the Repeal Coalition to organize the repeal and replace movement, and begins tracking more than 70 major changes the Obama administration eventually makes—mostly without legal authority—in implementing the highly-flawed law.

2017

After Sen. McCain’s fateful “thumbs-down” decision killing the conservative reform effort, Galen begins holding weekly meetings of the Consensus Group to develop a major new health policy initiative—the Health Care Choices plan—that presents a new generation of market-oriented ideas as a positive alternative to the failed ObamaCare experiment.
2018
Galen organizes a launch event at the Hoover Institution to release the Health Care Choices plan featuring two governors and scores of Consensus Group participants. Galen also launches the American Health Care Choices website and HealthCareChoices.org.

2019
Grace-Marie testifies four times before Congress over two months against the Left’s “Medicare for All” initiative, leading to numerous speaking invitations and media appearances, including one of many appearances on C-SPAN.

2020
The University of Pennsylvania’s 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Report ranks the Galen Institute as the 4th most influential Free Market Domestic Health Affairs Think Tank in the U.S.

The Consensus Group continues to update and refine the Health Care Choices plan and re-releases it with more policy ideas for personalized health care options that put patients and doctors in charge.

2021
Grace-Marie Turner is listed in The Washingtonian as one of the most influential people in Washington on health policy.

Galen facilitate production and upcoming publication of an accurate history of Operation Warp Speed as a model public-private partnership.
**SEPTEMBER 2020—AUGUST 2021**

**A YEAR AT A GLANCE**

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**The Galen Team**

Senior Fellow Doug Badger, left, and Senior Fellow Brian Blase with Grace-Marie Turner at a Galen meeting in Florida.

Doug’s long career includes stints as a policy adviser to the White House, the U.S. Senate, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Social Security Administration. As a senior adviser to President George W. Bush, Doug developed the Administration’s proposal for adding prescription drug coverage to Medicare and represented the White House in negotiations with Congress that resulted in enactment of the Medicare Modernization Act. He also advised the President and Congress on other issues, including creation of health savings accounts.

Brian’s career has followed Doug’s in many aspects, also serving as a policy adviser in the White House and U.S. Senate. As the Special Assistant to the President at the White House’s National Economic Council from January 2017 through June 2019, Dr. Blase coordinated the Trump Administration’s health policy agenda, developed legislative and regulatory strategies, and advised the President, the Director of the NEC, and other senior government officials.
EDUCATE.

**Galen produces ground-breaking research to educate the debate.**

Our research informs administration officials, congressional and state leaders about expanding options and opportunities for health care consumers for more affordable health care choices.

The Health Policy Consensus Group’s *Health Care Choices* proposal, signed by nearly 100 colleagues in the public policy and health freedom communities.

COMING IN 2022 ...

*The Galen Institute is helping facilitate this project for publication in early 2022 by Republic Book Publishers.*

Opration Warp Speed is a story that must be accurately told to capture the truth and complexity of this historic endeavor and help the nation and the world prepare for the inevitable next pandemic. It is also a compelling story about a new generation of leaders operating at warp speed to control the killer pandemic, but one involving strong wills, sharp conflicts, and high risks, easily making it a candidate to be a best seller.

One man directed the Operation Warp Speed team—Paul Mango—and he is uniquely positioned to tell the true story of the vaccine success. Mango led the team, on behalf of former HHS Sec. Alex Azar, for the Warp Speed mobilization as Deputy Chief of Staff and top advisor to Azar. A West Point graduate who spent more than 20 years as a top executive at a global consulting firm, 2018 GOP nominee for governor of Pennsylvania, and Army heavy-artillery reservist, he was the top person in the Trump Administration running Operation Warp Speed that led to the development, production, and distribution of Covid vaccines with unprecedented speed.
MAJOR PAPERS Published by the Galen Institute, Fall 2020 to Summer 2021

**Why states should not expand Medicaid**
BLASE, TURNER, 10.06.2020

**Integrating HSA's with New Health Reimbursement Arrangements**
BLASE, 10.15.2020

**Health Care Choices 2020—Revised and Updated**
GALEN INSTITUTE, 10.23.2020

**Proposed Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters (NBPP) for 2022**
GALEN INSTITUTE, 12.29.20

**The New Push to Expand Government’s Role in Health Care Won’t Work**
CONSENSUS GROUP, 02.21.21

**Expanded ACA Subsidies: Exacerbating Health Inflation and Income Inequality**
BLASE, 02.23.21

**Questions and Answers about the Democrats’ Proposal to Expand ObamaCare Subsidies**
BLASE, 02.23.21

**Individual Health Insurance Markets Improving in States that Fully Permit Short-Term Plans**
BLASE, 02.05.21

**A Biden Administration Regulatory “Fix” to the “Family Glitch” Would Be Illegal and Harmful**
BLASE, 05.03.21

**UPDATE: Expanded ACA Subsidies: Exacerbating Health Inflation and Income Inequality**
BLASE, 06.11.21
MAJOR PAPERS

*By our scholars, published with or by other organizations*

**Heritage Foundation**

*COVID-19: Still a New York Story, Badger, 09.17.20*

*Mask Mandates: Do They Work? Are There Better Ways to Control COVID-19 Outbreaks?, Badger, 12.15.20*

*Rapid COVID Tests: A Cure for Lockdowns, a Complement to Vaccines, Badger, 01.13.21*

*COVID-19: Why President Biden’s Response Strategy Falls Short, Badger, 01.27.21*

*Obamacare Subsidies: Six Reasons Congress Should Not Make Temporary Increases Permanent, Badger, 05.26.21*

*COVID-19 and Federalism: Public Officials’ Accountability and Comparative Performance, Badger, 07.26.21*

**Regnery**

*Making Government Work, Turner, 09.22.20*

**Blase Strategies**

*Integrating Health Savings Accounts with New Health Reimbursement Arrangements, Blase, 10.15.20*
Galen’s nationwide media presence informs and engages the public.

The Galen Institute has long been seen within the freedom movement and among policymakers as a source not only for solid policy ideas but also for being able to explain the complexities of health reform in a way that is accessible and convincing. We utilize both traditional and new media sources to share our ideas and shape the debate. We publish widely and regularly in major newspapers, magazines, journals, and other outlets to reach millions of readers.

The Wall Street Journal, November 20, 2020

The Galen Institute’s Brian Blase pointed out last week that the Affordable Care Act is on track to cost taxpayers $1.8 trillion over the next decade, and too much of that goes to pay insurance companies for “healthy enrollees who need massive subsidies to afford the coverage that the ACA made much more expensive.” Republicans should run with this line of thinking: $1.8 trillion could be better deployed, particularly in directly helping the seriously ill.
The Galen Institute was cited at least 59 times in various media outlets. Here are a few examples:

**The Wall Street Journal**, November 20, 2020

The Galen Institute’s Brian Blase pointed out last week that the Affordable Care Act is on track to cost taxpayers $1.8 trillion over the next decade, and too much of that goes to pay insurance companies for “healthy enrollees who need massive subsidies to afford the coverage that the ACA made much more expensive.” Republicans should run with this line of thinking: $1.8 trillion could be better deployed, particularly in directly helping the seriously ill.

**The Wall Street Journal**, April 3, 2021

“The Biden administration is being pretty shortsighted here,” said Brian Blase, who developed health policy as a special assistant in the Trump administration. “Many conservative states are concerned about federal overreach.”

**New York Times**, October 6, 2020

Concern over the lack of competition in health care markets is shared by the Trump administration, said Brian Blase, a former White House aide. During his first year in office, President Trump signed an executive order asking federal officials to look closely at hospital mergers and other actions that could lead to higher prices and less choice for consumers. “It’s an issue that we spent a lot of time addressing and expressed significant concern about,” Mr. Blase said.

**The Washington Times**, October 6, 2020

The Supreme Court likely would issue a stay to give Congress time to assemble a plan if it decides the individual mandate isn’t severable from the rest of the law, said Grace-Marie Turner, president of the Galen Institute, which promotes free market health care policies. “Congress will have to act. There is a growing consensus that the ACA is not working. The centerpiece of Joe Biden’s health platform is to try to fix the troubled law,” said Ms. Turner, whose institute is crafting conservative changes that can gain support.

**The Washington Post**, July 16, 2021

Brian Blase, a policy consultant who served as a special assistant to Trump and helped craft the last administration’s price transparency rules, credited the “positive signs” from the Biden administration but said the White House needed to demonstrate that it would actually impose the rules. “It’s hard to know whether they are going to devote resources toward successful implementation or just talk about how they support transparency but not make it a priority,” Blase said.

“There is a growing consensus that the ACA is not working.”

Grace-Marie Turner
Galen collaborates and creates consensus to advance freedom

Galen Expands Its Coalitions Team

In 2021, Laura Trueman joined Galen to bring her extraordinary expertise in consensus building and outreach to the Galen team as Senior Adviser.

Laura most recently was the director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs at HHS where she facilitated communications on health policy with everyone from governors, mayors, and think tanks experts to physicians, industry associations, patient groups and countless others across the country.

With Laura’s help, the Consensus Group will accelerate and expand our consensus-building efforts and communicate our ideas to whole new groups from her world.

Health Policy Consensus Group

Our goal always has been and will be to facilitate a positive, informed conversation over health policy solutions that put patients and doctors in charge of spending and care decisions and to create and communicate the policy solutions to achieve that.

There is more unanimity in the health policy community today than ever, and we think that is because of the regular Consensus Group conversations to explore ideas and exchange information. While individual groups may have their own policy proposals, we share similar core ideas that will revive choice and competition in the health sector to provide more choices of affordable care and coverage, and do a much better job than Obamacare and Medicaid of providing a strong safety net for the most vulnerable.

Throughout the pandemic, we were able to adapt and continue the work of our Health Policy Consensus Group, a network of 250 of the nation’s leading health policy experts that we started building in the 1990s. In fact, holding meetings by Zoom allowed people from around the country to participate, many more than can join us regularly for our in-person meetings.
Thank you!

To our steadfast supporters since 1996, thank you.

It’s hard to envision the state of America’s health policy landscape without the Galen Institute’s influence over the past 25 years, and it’s impossible to envision Galen’s success without you.

Your support has been instrumental in maintaining our powerful voice for health freedom. Together, we have pushed forward to provide lawmakers with sensible policies that protect the most vulnerable, expand options for people to get secure private health coverage, and foster innovation that leads to more and better options for more affordable care and coverage.

The battle is far from over, but we look forward to a future where Americans have better choices, better care, and—most importantly—greater freedom.

Thank you for standing with us!