Long-term care needs transformation to meet the needs of older adults and caregivers. “Our nation’s nursing homes and other long-term care settings were built more than 50 years ago and little has been done to update them since,” says Terry Fulmer, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation. “Undercompensated and undertrained staff, the increasing complexity of patients and instances of elder abuse are just a few of the challenges facing these care settings. The National Academies’ report, The National Imperative to Improve Nursing Home Quality, provides a comprehensive set of solutions for the future.”

Why It Matters:
- COVID-19 exposed the dangers of an outdated, unsafe long-term care system
- More than 1 million older adults live in a nursing home, according to the CDC
- JAHF supports efforts to improve nursing home quality and safety

Health systems are changing their approach to meet the needs of an aging population. “More than 2,500 health systems are changing the way they respond to the care needs of older adults through our Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative, leading to improved outcomes and reduced costs,” says Terry Fulmer, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation. “Ultimately, all care provided to older adults in any setting will be shaped by age-friendly principles.”

Why It Matters:
- One in five Americans will be 65 or older by 2030
- Age-Friendly Health Systems reduce the length and cost of hospital stays for older adult patients

Family caregivers are overworked and under supported, but help is on the way. “We’re quickly approaching the cliff—if we haven’t gone over it already—to create policies that support family caregivers financially and with the preparation they need to care for their loved ones,” says Rani Snyder, vice president of The John A. Hartford Foundation. “Our nation needs a blueprint and action plan detailing how family caregivers will be supported through a whole-of-government approach at the local, state and national levels. The RAISE Act has given us the platform to do just that.”

Why It Matters:
- Unpaid caregivers provide an estimated $470 billion in unpaid care per year, according to AARP
- One in five unpaid family caregivers report fair or poor health, according to the CDC

Our Experts:
Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, President – Nursing homes, system redesign, elder abuse, payment policy and clinician training and support
Rani Snyder, MPA, Vice President – Value-based care, medical education, family caregivers and direct care workers

For information on The John A. Hartford Foundation’s initiatives, contact Marcus Escobedo, MPA, Vice President, Communications & Senior Program Officer, marcus.escobedo@johnahartford.org