

# FOOD INDUSTRY 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

As the food industry association, FMI works with and on behalf of the entire industry to advance a safer, healthier and more efficient consumer food supply chain.

In January, the FMI Board of Directors identified policy priorities for the food industry for 2023 and beyond. The Board outlined five key advocacy areas that will have significant implications for the industry in the coming years. FMI will advocate on these and other public policy issues under its mission to feed families and enrich lives. Key priorities include:

## Labor



### Workforce Supply and Regulatory Enforcement

The food industry continues to face a significant workforce shortage, despite efforts to increase wages and benefits and provide flexible work schedules. Food retailers and product suppliers strive for creative solutions to enable the industry to attract and retain talent and further invest in their employees. Additionally, the current labor and employment regulatory environment is inflexible and burdensome for employers and threatens to significantly hamper the food industry's ability to grow its workforce.

## Food Safety



### Traceability

Nothing is more important to FMI and our members than food safety. Issued in November 2022, the Food Traceability rule was one of the last remaining regulations required under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Industry leaders have expressed ongoing questions and concerns regarding the scope of the rule and how it deviates significantly from a law designed to focus on tracing high-risk foods, not tens of thousands of products. The food industry will be outlining to Congress flexibilities and changes needed for companies to begin to develop compliance strategies for the rule.

## Payments



### Swipe Fee Reform; Credit Card Competition

Grocery merchants and our customers have had to shoulder skyrocketing costs associated with credit card purchases for decades. Reforming the broken credit card market to foster competition and bring financial relief to consumers and main street businesses during these challenging economic times must be a top priority in Congress.

## Pharmacy



### PBM Reform

Due to the anticompetitive practices of many pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), it is a struggle to keep supermarket pharmacies in business – particularly in underserved, low-income, rural and urban neighborhoods. Patients, physicians and employers that provide health care coverage share our deep concerns. Increased PBM oversight and transparency reform are necessary to reduce drug costs and preserve access to supermarket pharmacies.

## Economy



### Inflation

A number of factors continue to negatively impact the food supply chain and contribute to elevated food prices, including the remnants of the COVID-19 pandemic, severe weather events, labor shortages, and global conflict. Policies that address these root causes are needed to bring food price inflation down and provide relief to American families.