

### SOME MONEY NOW SAVES MORE MONEY LATER

- Foodborne illness and death is not only tragic; it is exorbitantly expensive. We can prevent countless illnesses and deaths with a stronger system for detecting contaminated food.
- With adequate funding, the US can accelerate detection and identification of foodborne illnesses, thus saving lives, lowering health care expenses, and limiting the impact on affected businesses.

### COORDINATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES

- Public health labs are the early warning system for what's making people sick, but they can't fix the food safety system themselves.
- A cross-disciplinary process is needed to bring together epidemiologists, laboratorians, and food sanitarians at the state, local, and federal (CDC, FDA, USDA) levels. The Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) is a successful model for such collaboration.

Improved communication and coordination can speed response to foodborne outbreaks in the US, saving lives, lowering health care costs, and limiting the impact on affected businesses.

### PULSENET: BACKBONE OF US NETWORK FOR DETECTION OF FOODBORNE DISEASE

- PulseNet is a national network of public health labs that detect, identify and track clusters of foodborne illness. PulseNet networks are being developed in many regions of the world.
- Like an FBI database, which can link crimes perpetrated by the same criminal using DNA evidence, PulseNet connects cases of foodborne disease by matching the DNA "fingerprints" of the pathogen.
- More outbreaks are being detected, so more resources are needed.

### WE CAN STOP OUTBREAKS FASTER BY INTERVIEWING PATIENTS

- The fastest way to identify the source of a foodborne outbreak is to ask people what they ate. Minnesota, a state which routinely conducts patient interviews, has the best record for solving foodborne outbreaks in the US.
- Laboratory science is critical to protecting the country from foodborne disease but so is epidemiologic data. You need both PFGE testing and patient interviews to obtain the information necessary to stop an outbreak.
- Every American should be equally protected from foodborne illness. Federal funding is needed to develop nationwide capacity to conduct patient interviews.