Your Views: Politicians must focus more on fighting chronic diseases

There are alarming statistics on the prevalence of chronic disease in Wisconsin from The Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease. It is clear to me that our political leaders need to be encouraged to put more of their focus on health and wellness.

As executive director of the Epilepsy Foundation for the past 25 years, I know how difficult and costly chronic diseases are for the patients and families dealing with them, but the rate of chronic disease continues to rise.

Unless we work on a solution now, one in three first-graders will develop diabetes in their lifetimes. That will lead to costly medical treatment, reduced earning power for those families and additional problems that can arise from their compromised health.

There are policies that can be implemented to give patients more support in managing their chronic conditions, as well as incentives to spur therapeutic advances and make them available to patients in a time frame that matters. I'd like to hear our elected officials and, especially, presidential candidates discuss what they would do to bend the cost curve on chronic care.

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