

Alex Azar

24th Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Healthcare in America: A Former HHS Secretary's Perspective on the Road Ahead

As Secretary of Health and Human Services during the first Trump administration, Alex Azar was at the helm of some of the most transformative healthcare policies in modern U.S. history. With a front-row seat to the inner workings of government, Azar played a pivotal role in reshaping the healthcare system, placing patients at the center and driving initiatives that cut costs, improved quality, and enhanced transparency. In this compelling talk, Azar offers a behind-the-scenes look at the strategies, challenges, and victories of reforming U.S. healthcare. He shares his unique perspective on how the Trump administration approached healthcare policy, including the resistance and obstacles he faced internally and externally, and the strategies he employed to overcome them. Azar also offers valuable insights into how the healthcare landscape continues to evolve under new administrations and what that means for patients, providers, and policymakers. From price transparency and deregulation to patient-centric care models and payment reform, Azar provides an insider's understanding of the healthcare revolution he helped set in motion and its enduring implications for the future.

Leading Through Change: Purpose-Driven Leadership in Action With extensive experience in both government and the private sector, Alex Azar offers a unique perspective on purpose-driven leadership. In this talk, Azar explains how aligning mission, vision, strategy, and values helps create high-performing teams that thrive in times of adversity. Drawing from his tenure as HHS Secretary during the first Trump administration, he shares how purpose-driven leadership guided the U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including modernizing public health data systems, reinventing the Strategic National Stockpile, and launching Operation Warp Speed to deliver vaccines in record time. Azar also reflects on leading Eli Lilly through major disruptions, focusing on building resilience and fostering innovation during challenging times. He provides key insights into how effective leadership can empower teams to embrace change and achieve ambitious goals, even when faced with uncertainty. Through these examples, Azar demonstrates how purpose-driven leadership drives organizational success and lasting, positive impact.

Managing Crises on a Global Stage: Leadership in Public Health During his tenure as Secretary of Health and Human Services under the first Trump administration, Alex Azar was at the helm of some of the most complex and high-stakes public health challenges in modern history. He offers an inside look at the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including his leadership of the G7 health ministerial, and recounts the successful containment of an Ebola outbreak in Central Africa. Azar shares his role in addressing the Venezuelan refugee crisis, his efforts to reduce youth tobacco use, and his leadership in launching a historic campaign to end the HIV epidemic in America.

Through these stories, Azar provides a compelling narrative of the complexities, successes, and lessons learned from managing global and domestic public health crises.

Leading at Warp Speed: Insights for Business Leaders from a Historic Initiative As the architect of Operation Warp Speed and Secretary of Health and Human Services during the first Trump Administration, Alex Azar blends pharmaceutical expertise and government experience. In this talk, he reveals how his knowledge of drug development, pandemic preparedness, and medical countermeasures helped him co-chair the largest and most successful biomedical development initiative in history, delivering COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in record time. Azar shares the inside story of how OWS came to be, drawing on his HHS tenure to explain how cross-agency collaboration and an unprecedented partnership with the Department of Defense led to rapid vaccine development and distribution. He also offers key lessons for business leaders on executing the “impossible,” from overcoming challenges and breaking down silos to creating a unified vision and driving extraordinary results.