

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FMI Applauds Administration's Delay of Affordable Care Act's Employer Mandate**

**ARLINGTON, VA – July 3, 2013** – Food Marketing Institute (FMI) applauds the Administration's decision to delay enforcement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) employer mandate after receiving information regarding implementation challenges and the need for additional clarity from FMI members and other stakeholders in the employer community seeking to comply with the law. FMI Senior Vice President of Government and Public Affairs Jennifer Hatcher offered the following statement:

"FMI has been working with the Administration – Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, Health and Human Services, and the White House – for the last year and a half to clarify the requirements for employers in implementing the law. We appreciate their willingness to listen and now to address our concerns that the employer community needs more time and more clarity before the new ACA requirements and mandates fully go into effect. There wasn't enough time for employers with fluctuating workforces to adequately review all of ACA's employer rules, modify their plans, build compliance systems and develop reporting mechanisms to be fully in compliance by January 1, 2014.

"We're pleased that the Administration recognized the unique challenges facing the food retail community, and our dynamic workforce, and offered 2014 as a transitional year. In the meantime, we will encourage our members to test the systems through voluntary reporting in 2014.

"We look forward to continued work with White House and U.S. Treasury teams in order to try to minimize the burdens so that retailers and wholesalers can continue to provide health coverage that is affordable to both the employee and the employer."

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Food Marketing Institute proudly advocates on behalf of the food retail industry. FMI's U.S. members operate nearly 40,000 retail food stores and 25,000 pharmacies, representing a combined annual sales volume of almost \$770 billion. Through programs in public affairs, food safety, research, education and industry relations, FMI offers resources and provides valuable benefits to more than 1,225 food retail and wholesale member companies in the United States and around the world. FMI membership covers the spectrum of diverse venues where food is sold, including single owner grocery stores, large multi-store supermarket chains and mixed retail stores. For more information, visit [www.fmi.org](http://www.fmi.org) and for information regarding the FMI foundation, visit [www.fmifoundation.org](http://www.fmifoundation.org).