



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Bipartisan Senators Seek to Address Social Determinants of Health with New Bill**

**WASHINGTON, DC** (December 5, 2019) – Aligning for Health, a coalition of leading health insurers, providers, and vendors, is proud to support the Senate introduction of the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act* (S. 2986), a bipartisan piece of legislation introduced by Sens. Young (R-IN) and Stabenow (D-MI).

The *Social Determinants Accelerator Act* will help states and communities devise strategies to leverage existing programs and authorities to address all aspects of health, including food, housing, transportation, and workforce.

Economic and social conditions have a powerful impact on our health and wellness. Known as social determinants of health, a focus on these non-medical factors can improve health outcomes and wellbeing. States and local governments are increasingly looking toward social determinants to manage costs and to improve health outcomes within their Medicaid programs. One of the greatest challenges to high-impact interventions is the difficulty of navigating fragmented and complex federal programs.

The *Social Determinants Accelerator Act* will provide planning grants and technical assistance to state, local, and Tribal governments who want to devise innovative, evidence-based approaches to coordinate programs and services.

“This legislation will catalyze the cross-sector collaboration and planning necessary to make the promise of a whole-person approach a reality. This bill will give state and local officials the resources they need to get beyond the silos and develop innovative approaches to complex problems,” said Krista Drobac, Co-Chair of Aligning for Health.

“Investing in solutions to address social determinants of health is truly an investment in our nation’s well-being,” said Rhonda Mims, Executive Vice President, WellCare Health Plans. “At WellCare, we have seen first-hand how removing barriers to care – including transportation, housing, food insecurity and more – are critical not only to ensuring access and adherence to basic healthcare, but also to improving lives and reducing healthcare costs.”

“Our America Forward Coalition includes 100+ social innovation organizations working across the country every day to measurably improve lives. We've seen firsthand that the current siloed system of health and social service programs too often hinders effective partnerships with government that can build evidence and scale effective approaches in early childhood, education, workforce development and supportive housing services that make families and communities healthier. This much needed bipartisan legislation will help unlock critical resources to fund prevention, encourage state and local



innovation, build cross-sectoral partnerships, and make a real difference in people's lives," said Roger Low, Policy Director at America Forward and Aligning for Health Advisory Board Member.

**About Aligning for Health** – Aligning for Health members include: **Alliance for Better Health, American Hospital Association, Amida Care, Anthem, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, CareSource, Centene, HCSC, Humana, Molina, Signify Health, Solera, UPMC Health Plan, and WellCare.**

Additional information about Aligning for Health may be found at [www.AligningforHealth.org](http://www.AligningforHealth.org)