



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Western Governors Endorse the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act*

WASHINGTON, DC (March 9, 2020) – *Aligning for Health* is excited to announce that the Western Governors' Association, an independent organization representing the Governors of the 22 westernmost states and territories, sent a letter in support of the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act (H.R. 4004)* to House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Walden (R-OR).

The Western Governors' Association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information-sharing and collective action on issues of critical importance to the western United States.

Its 2020 Policy Resolution, related to *Physical and Behavioral Health Care in Western States*, notes:

Western Governors support efforts to identify risks facing high utilizers of health care services, including food insecurity, domestic violence risk, unmet transportation needs, housing, utility and other essential supports and services, and to develop innovative models designed to improve coordination of medical and non-medical services and use of evidence-based interventions. These models can provide valuable information on how meeting non-health needs and addressing other social determinants can improve overall health status and decrease health spending.

The Social Determinants Accelerator Act – bipartisan legislation introduced by Reps. Bustos (D-IL), Cole (R-OK), McGovern (D-MA), and McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) – would meet these goals by helping states and communities to devise strategies leveraging existing programs and authorities to address all aspects of health, including food, housing, transportation, and workforce. A Senate version of the legislation is being led by Senators Young (IN) and Stabenow (MI) (S. 2986).

The Western Governors' Association joins several other state and local government organizations in supporting the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act* - legislation that would empower states, localities, and tribal organizations to design right-sized interventions to meet their unique community needs.

"Counties are often responsible for safety net services that support our most vulnerable residents' health and wellbeing," said National Association of Counties Executive Director Matthew Chase. "This legislation provides tools and resources to deliver health programs and human services in efficient and innovative ways. We thank Representatives Bustos, Cole, McGovern and McMorris Rodgers for their bipartisan efforts."

Learn more about the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act* at <http://aligningforhealth.org/social-determinants-accelerator-act/>.

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

Additional information about Aligning for Health may be found at www.AligningforHealth.org