



June XX, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Chair Eshoo, and Ranking Member Guthrie:

Thank you to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Health for holding a legislative hearing on *"Empowered By Data: Legislation to Advance Equity and Public Health."* We are thrilled that the Subcommittee convened this hearing to discuss and consider important legislation related to social determinants of health and applaud your continued leadership on this issue to improve health and wellbeing for all Americans.

As you know, economic and social conditions have a powerful impact on our health and wellness. Stable housing, reliable transportation, and access to healthy foods are all factors that have the potential to contribute to health outcomes more than clinical health care. In fact, one widely cited study found that while ten percent of premature deaths in the U.S. are due to clinical health care, social and environmental factors are estimated to account for sixty percent of health outcomes.¹ These challenges have only become more serious in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately impacted vulnerable and underserved communities.

As a coalition committed to improving health and wellbeing by addressing individual and community social needs, we write to express our support for passage of the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2021 (H.R. 2503)*, which is supported by over 100 leading health and social services organizations.² We urge the Subcommittee to consider and advance this importance piece of legislation, which will empower communities across the country to work across sectors to share data, leverage available resources, foster partnerships, and coordinate care to drive improved and equitable outcomes.

¹ Hood, C. M., K. P. Gennuso, G. R. Swain, and B. B. Catlin. 2016. County health rankings: Relationships between determinant factors and health outcomes. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 50(2):129-135.

² See appendix for full list of supporting organizations.



The *Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2021* will help states and communities devise strategies to better leverage existing programs and authorities to improve the health and wellbeing of those participating in Medicaid. The legislation will provide planning grants and targeted technical assistance to communities to develop and design innovative, evidence-based approaches to coordinate health and social services – with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes and cost-effectiveness. The legislation also encourages improvements in cross-sector information exchange, allowing for greater coordination and accountability.

In addition to local-level leadership, the federal inter-agency technical advisory council created by the Act would identify key learnings and best practices, allowing for the scaling and replication of effective approaches, and facilitate a national dialogue around barriers to success of these initiatives.

Taken together, these elements will address the complexity that often stymies innovative cross-sector efforts or limits the scope and scalability of initiatives at the state and local level. We believe that the *Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2021* is a critical step to overcome these challenges and move the ball forward. It will provide state, local and tribal governments with additional capacity and support to incubate innovative strategies – and the entire nation will benefit from the results of their effort.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing social determinants of health to improve the wellbeing of our country's most vulnerable populations and maximize coordination across important health and social service programs.

Sincerely,

Aligning for Health

APPENDIX

Support for the Social Determinants Accelerator Act (H.R. 2503)

Updated June 2021

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors	Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center
Acelero Learning	Healthcare Leadership Council
Adagio Health	Hep Free Hawaii
Alameda County Public Health Department	Humana
Aligning for Health	iMentor
Alliance for Better Health	Institute for Child Success
America Forward	KidSucceed LLC
American Association of Service Coordinators	Lakeshore Foundation
American Association on Health and Disability	Let's Grow Kids
America's Essential Hospitals	LexisNexis Risk Solutions
America's Health Insurance Plans	Local Initiatives Support Coalition (LISC)
American Hospital Association	Lutheran Services in America
American Medical Association	Macoupin County Public Health Department
America's Promise Alliance	Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc.
American Society of Addiction Medicine	Maycomb Capital Community Outcomes Fund
AMGA	Medical Group Management Association
Amida Care	Molina
Anthem	National Alliance to impact the Social Determinants of Health (NASDOH)
Association of American Medical Colleges	National Association of Accountable Care Organizations
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness	National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Aurora Institute	National Association of Counties
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association	National Association of Social Workers
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina	National Coalition on Health Care
CareSource	National League of Cities
Centene	Nemours Children's Health System
Children's Hospital Association	New Profit
Citizen Schools	New Teacher Center
City Year Inc.	Nonprofit Finance Fund
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Nurse-Family Partnership
Council on Social Work Education	Orange County Board of Supervisors
CyncHealth	Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
Early Learning Alliance	Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
eHealth Initiative	Penn Center for Community Health Workers
Enterprise Community Partners	Population Health Alliance
Families USA	Primary Care Collaborative
Forum for Youth Investment	Project Evident
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative	
GreenLight Fund	

Purchaser Business Group on Health
Quantified Ventures
REDF
Results for America
Roca
Share Our Strength
Signify Health
Single Stop
SNP Alliance
Social Finance
Socially Determined
Solera
Springboard Collaborative
SSM Health
StriveTogether
The Community Transportation Association of
America
Trust for America's Health
Uber Health
UPMC Health Plan
URAC
Wyman Center
YMCA of the USA