July 6, 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.

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

Updated July 2021

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