

May 27, 2022

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

Dear Chair Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for your commitment to addressing social determinants of health and health equity. We applaud your continued leadership on this issue to improve health and wellbeing for all Americans. We write today to urge you to build upon the important progress made by the Subcommittee on Health last summer by moving forward and passing into law legislation to advance equity and to address the social determinants of health.

We encourage the Committee to continue to advance important social determinants of health legislation that will empower organizations and communities across the country to work across sectors to foster partnerships, coordinate care and services, share data, and leverage available resources to drive improved and equitable outcomes and that would catalyze federal cross-sector opportunities to address social determinants. Specifically, we recommend the Committee act on the following priorities:

*Coordinate efforts to address SDOH through actions to:*

- Implement an interagency council across federal programs related to the social determinants of health, authorities, opportunities, and strategies across a wide range of federal agencies.
- Support SDOH activities at CDC and promote collaboration with other federal agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and others.

*Support state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments and nonprofits by:*

- Providing social determinants accelerator planning grants for state, local and Tribal governments, nongovernmental entities or a consortium of entities to develop and implement plans that enhance services for patients, improve outcomes in Medicaid and ensure evidence-based approaches to better programs.
- Awarding grants to state, local, territorial, and Tribal health agencies and organizations to address SDOH in target communities.

*Educate future progress by supporting efforts to:*

- Award grants to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education to conduct research on SDOH best practices; provide technical assistance, training and evaluation assistance to target community grantees; and disseminate best practices.
- Collect and analyze data related to SDOH activities.
- Develop and evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based approaches to coordinate services and improve outcomes for those participating in Medicaid.

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, local, territorial, Tribal, and federal levels. We believe it is critical to ensure governments have the needed capacity and support to incubate innovative strategies – and the entire nation will benefit from the results of their effort.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and thank you again for your leadership and ongoing commitment to addressing social determinants of health. These efforts will improve the well-being of communities around the country and maximize coordination across important health and social service programs.

Sincerely,

Action Communication and Education Reform

Addiction Connections Resource

Addiction Professionals of North Carolina

Akron Children's Hospital (Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron)

Alameda County Public Health Dept./VNA-Inc.

Aligning for Health

Allina Health

American Association of Service Coordinators

American Association on Health and Disability

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)

American Psychological Association

AMGA

Association for Clinical Oncology

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists

Big Cities Health Coalition

Black Women's Health Imperative

Capital Healthcare Group, LLC

Catholic Health Association of the United States

Center for Black Women's Wellness

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

Change Healthcare

Children's Hospital Association

Common Threads

Community ConneXor  
Continual Care Solutions  
Continuum Health Group  
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)  
CyncHealth  
EFS Supervision Strategies, LLC  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Feeding Northeast Florida  
findhelp  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, Inc  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Healthy Alliance  
KidSucceed LLC  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lyft, Inc.  
Macoupin County Public Health Department  
Maine Primary Care Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
MIKE Program  
National Association of ACOs  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
National Committee for Quality Assurance  
National Council on Aging (NCOA)  
National Health Law Program  
National Kidney Foundation  
Nemours Children's Health  
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation  
Primary Care Collaborative  
Revitalize Community Development Corporation  
SCAN Health Plan  
Sepsis Alliance  
Signify Health  
Special Needs Plan Alliance

SSM Health  
Texas Health Resources  
The American College of Preventive Medicine  
The Coordinating Center  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Root Cause Coalition  
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region, Inc.  
Trust for America's Health  
Unite Us, Inc.  
United Way of the Lakelands  
UPMC Health Plan  
Vizient  
Voices of Hope, Inc.  
WE in the World  
WelCore Health  
Wholesome Wave  
YMCA of the USA