



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.

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

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

Updated July 2021

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

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