

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