

January 6, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Chair  
Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Eshoo, and Ranking Member Burgess:

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 can make a difference in the prevention and management of many health conditions like diabetes, asthma and heart disease.

As organizations 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 (H.R. 4004). We urge the Committee to hold a hearing to discuss current challenges and opportunities in addressing social determinants of health, including H.R. 4004.

The *Social Determinants Accelerator Act* 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* 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 well-being of our country's most vulnerable populations and maximize coordination across important safety net programs.

Sincerely,

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors  
Acelero Learning  
Aligning for Health  
AMGA  
America Forward  
American Hospital Association  
America's Essential Hospitals  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
America's Promise Alliance  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Aurora Institute  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association  
Children's Hospital Association  
Citizen Schools  
City Year Inc.  
The Community Transportation Association of America  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Council on Social Work Education  
Early Learning Alliance  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Forum for Youth Investment  
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative  
GreenLight Fund  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
iMentor  
Institute for Child Success  
KidSucceed LLC  
Let's Grow Kids  
LIFT, Inc  
Local Initiatives Support Coalition  
Lutheran Services in America  
Maycomb Capital Community Outcomes Fund  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Association of Accountable Care Organizations  
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  
New Profit  
New Teacher Center  
Nonprofit Finance Fund  
Nurse-Family Partnership  
Pacific Business Group on Health  
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  
Primary Care Collaborative  
Project Evident  
Quantified Ventures  
REDF  
Results for America  
Roca  
Share Our Strength  
Single Stop  
SNP Alliance  
Social Finance  
Springboard Collaborative  
StriveTogether  
Third Sector  
Trust for America's Health  
URAC  
Wyman Center  
YMCA of the USA