



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

*For science. For action. For health.*

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Subcommittee on Health Chair  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, Subcommittee Chair Eshoo and Subcommittee Ranking Member Guthrie:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals that champions the health of all people and communities, I write in strong support of H.R. 379, the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021.

The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021 would create a new Social Determinants of Health program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This new program would coordinate across CDC to ensure that existing programs work together to eliminate silos and address determinants. The bill would also make funding available to award grants for research on social determinants of health best practices and to address social determinants of health in target communities. The provisions in this bill align with the recommendations in APHA's policy statement, [Achieving Health Equity in the United States](#).

We commend the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Health for holding a hearing on this bill and other key health equity issues and I write in strong support of moving the bill forward to committee markup and to consideration by the full House. The provisions included in the bill support APHA's priorities of advancing racial and health equity, crucial steps toward achieving the healthiest nation in one generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director