Social Determinants of Health Caucus—Request for Information
Responses due September 21

- What specific SDOH challenges have you seen to have the most impact on health? What areas have changed most during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What types of gaps in care, programs, and services serve as a main barrier in addressing SDOH in the communities you serve? What approaches have your organization, community, Tribal organization, or state taken to address such challenges?
- Are there other federal policies that present challenges to addressing SDOH?
- Is there a unique role technology can play to alleviate specific challenges (e.g. referrals to community resources, telehealth consultations with community resource partners, etc.)? What are the barriers to using technology in this way?
- Where do you see opportunities for better coordination and alignment between community organizations, public health entities, and health organizations? What role can Congress play in facilitating such coordination so that effective social determinant interventions can be developed?
- What potential do you see in pooling funding from different sources to achieve aligned goals in addressing SDOH? How could Congress and federal agencies provide state and communities with more guidance regarding how they can blend or braid funds?
- How could federal programs such as Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, WIC, etc. better align to effectively address SDOH in a holistic way? Are there particular programmatic changes you recommend?
- Are there any non-traditional partners that are critical to addressing SDOH that should be better aligned with the health sector to address SDOH across the continuum from birth through adulthood? What differences should be considered between non-health partners for adults' social needs vs children's social needs?
- What opportunities exist to better collect, understand, leverage, and report SDOH data to link individuals to services to address their health and social needs and to empower communities to improve outcomes?
- What are the key challenges related to the exchange of SDOH data between health care and public health organizations and social service organizations? How do these challenges vary across social needs (i.e., housing, food, etc.)? What tools, resources, or policies might assist in addressing such challenges?
- What are some programs/emergency flexibilities your organization leveraged to better address SDOH during the pandemic (i.e., emergency funding, emergency waivers, etc.)? Of the changes made, which would you like to see continued post-COVID?
- Which innovative state, local, and/or private sector programs or practices addressing SDOH should Congress look into further that could potentially be leveraged more widely across other settings? Are there particular models or pilots that seek to address SDOH that could be successful in other areas, particularly rural, tribal or underserved communities?
- Given the evidence base about the importance of the early years in influencing lifelong health trajectories, what are the most promising opportunities for addressing SDOH and promoting equity for children and families? What could Congress do to accelerate progress in addressing SDOH for the pediatric population?

- Alternative payment models help to measure health care based on its outcomes, rather than its services. What opportunities exist to expand SDOH interventions in outcome-based alternative payment models and bundled payment models?
- A critical element of transformation, particularly for new models of care, is measurement and evaluation. With SDOH in mind, which are the most critical elements to measure in a model, and what differences should be considered when measuring SDOH outcomes for adults vs children?
- How can Congress best address the factors related to SDOH that influence overall health outcomes in rural, tribal and/or underserved areas to improve health outcomes in these communities?
- What are the main barriers to programs addressing SDOH and promoting in the communities you serve? What should Congress consider when developing legislative solutions to address these challenges?