



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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aamc.org

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Cheri Bustos
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James McGovern
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bustos, Cole, McGovern, McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I am writing in support of the Social Determinants Accelerator Act of 2019 (H.R. 4004). This legislation would help communities across the nation—and the medical schools and teaching hospitals that serve them—address the non-medical factors that affect health and result in unfair and avoidable inequities. With social and economic conditions accounting for an estimated 60-70% of health outcomes, it is imperative that we treat these determinants of health in addition to treating the patients that walk through our doors.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members comprise all 155 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves 173,000 faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

Health and health care inequities are deeply rooted in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. Medical schools and teaching hospitals are committed to ensuring all people have the same opportunity to reach their full health potential—a state of health equity. In pursuit of this important goal, we fully support your bills to establish an inter-agency technical advisory panel on social determinants of health and to authorize planning grants for state, local and Tribal governments for accelerator programs.

We look forward to working with you to ensure this legislation passes in order to help improve the health of all. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Matthew Shick, Sr. Director, Government Relations, <mshick@aamc.org>. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher".

Karen Fisher, JD
AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer