

S 104/HR 379 – The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021

Sponsor/Cosponsors:

Senate: Senators Tina Smith (D-MN), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

House: Reps. Nanette Barragan (D-CA-44), G.K. Butterfield (D-NC-1), Tony Cardenas (D-CA-29), Yvette Clarke (D-NY-9), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE-AL), Bobby Rush (D-IL-1), Robin Kelly (D-IL-2), Peter Welch (D-VT-AL), Ro Khanna (D-CA-17), Theodore Deutch (D-FL-22), Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14), Brian Higgins (D-NY-26), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3), Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40), Steve Cohen (D-TN-9), Gwen Moore (D-WI-4), Barbara Lee (D-CA-13), Alcee Hastings (D-FL-20), Andre Carson (D-IN-7), Elanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-AL), Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8), Abigail Spanberger (D-VA-7), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18), Joseph Morelle (D-NY-25), Gregorio Sablan (D-MP-AL), Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38), Chuy Garcia (D-IL-4), Daniel Kildee (D-MI-5), Mike Levin (D-CA-49), Katie Porter (D-CA-45), Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29), Kathy Castor (D-FL-14), Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-3), Al Lawson (D-FL-5)

Bill Summary

The Improving Social Determinants of Health Act would authorize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create a program to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities by coordinating CDC social determinants of health (SDOH)-related activities, and improving the capacity of public health agencies and community organizations to address social determinants. The program would:

- Coordinate across CDC to ensure programs consider and incorporate social determinants in grants and activities;
- Award grants state, local, territorial, and Tribal health agencies and organizations to address social determinants in target communities;
- Award grants to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education to conduct research on SDOH best practices, provide technical assistance to community grantees, and disseminate best practices;
- Coordinate, support, and align SDOH-related activities at the CDC with other federal agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and;
- Collect and analyze data related to SDOH activities.

AHIMA's Perspective

AHIMA [believes](#) that to improve the collection, access, sharing, and use of social determinants, public policy must:

- Establish global standards to promote the capture, use, maintenance, and sharing of social determinants;
- Promote healthcare delivery and financing models designed to integrate social determinants into the clinical setting in ways that are culturally respectful;
- Build patient trust and foster positive patient-provider relationships to encourage patients to

- share their social challenges;
- Enhance the sharing of social determinants across clinical and community-based organizations and service providers;
 - Prioritize privacy;
 - Recognize workforce training needs;
 - Promote the ethical collection and use of social determinants; and
 - Embrace the role of health information professionals.

This bill supports AHIMA's stance that social determinants must be collected, shared, and analyzed with community-based organizations and service providers. The bill also supports AHIMA's stance that SDOH-related activities should be aligned across federal agencies, like CMS.

AHIMA's Ask

Support and cosponsor S 104/HR 379 to improve the use of social determinants in our communities. For offices that have already cosponsored, AHIMA thanks you for your support of this important and timely legislation.

To cosponsor S 104/HR 379, please contact Josh Izaak (Joshua.Izaak@mail.house.gov), Kripa Sreepada (Kripa_Sreepada@smith.senate.gov), and Elizabeth Darnall (Elizabeth_Darnall@murphy.senate.gov).