

October 19, 2021

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The Honorable Cheri Bustos
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bustos and Cole,

On behalf of the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO), thank you for the introduction of the Social Determinants Accelerator Act (H.R. 2503). We are pleased to offer our endorsement of this important legislation, and we commend your dedication towards advancing policy on social determinants of health.

ASCO is the national organization representing nearly 45,000 physicians and other health care professionals specializing in the treatment of cancer and clinical cancer research. Our members treat patients across the country from all backgrounds and are committed to achieving health equity in cancer care.

Accomplishing health equity will require, among other policies, broad approaches that address the social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health. Known as social determinants of health (SDOH), these are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age and factors such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood, employment, and social support.

ASCO acknowledges that much work remains to be done, by Congress and stakeholders at the systems level, to overcome historical momentum and existing social structures responsible for disparate healthcare outcomes. The creation of the Social Determinants Accelerator Interagency Council and the subsequent grants for social determinants accelerator plans, as outlined in your bill, would lead to improved data collection and coordination of services, and allow communities to tackle SDOH more effectively.

Again, 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, ASCO looks forward to working with you on this legislation going forward. Please contact Kristin Stuart (Kristin.Stuart@asco.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Howard "Skip" Burris, MD, FASCO
Chair of the Board, Association for Clinical Oncology