

October 30, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Conaway
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Conaway, and Ranking Member Peterson:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for H.R. 3592, the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act, sponsored by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC).

H.R. 3592 would provide research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population in the United States at a very crucial time. According to the Stanford South Asian Translational Heart Initiative, South Asian communities have a risk of heart disease four times higher than the general population and are significantly more likely to have a heart attack before age 50. Additionally, the prevalence of diabetes – one of the primary risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease – within the South Asian population is extremely high and continues to rise rapidly. This thoughtful legislation rationally addresses this alarming trend by expanding grants for culturally appropriate outreach efforts and research.

Reducing the burden of diabetes, risk of heart disease, decreased quality of life, and untimely death within South Asian communities is a task of great importance. We urge you to advance this crucial legislation and stand ready to partner with you to solve this public health crisis.

Sincerely,

American Association of Cardiovascular and
Pulmonary Rehabilitation
American College of Cardiology
American Heart Association
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health
Organizations
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Indian Neurologists in America

Bangladesh Medical Association of North
America
Heart Rhythm Society
Hindu American Foundation
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and
Interventions
Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
South Asian Heart Center/El Camino Hospital
WomenHeart