



August 9, 2018

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
US House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jayapal,

On behalf of the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), we would like to thank you for your dedication to addressing cardiovascular diseases among South Asians living in the U.S., and we are delighted to offer our support for the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2017 (H.R. 3592).

AAPCHO is a national not-for-profit association of 34 community-based health care organizations, 29 of which are Federally Qualified Health Centers, that primarily serves medically underserved Asian Americans (AA) and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). AAPCHO is a national voice to advocate for the unique and diverse health needs of AA and NHPI communities and the community health providers that serve those needs. Among other things, AAPCHO develops, tests, and evaluates health education and promotion programs of national significance. We also offer technical assistance and training to promote the establishment and expansion of services for medically underserved AA and NHPI communities.

According to a recent American Heart Association Scientific Statement, South Asians living in the U.S. are at significantly increased risk of dying from cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes, compared to other groups (<http://newsroom.heart.org/news/south-asian-americans-are-at-high-risk-for-heart-disease-and-stroke?preview=2d66?preview=2d66>). Further, there is a high prevalence of diabetes among those of South Asian descent, which is a primary risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease. For this reason, it is vitally important to increase awareness of and direct public health resources towards addressing cardiovascular diseases among those of South Asian descent living in the U.S. and, under your leadership, H.R. 3592 seeks to do this.

We applaud you for your work to increase funding and research to address cardiovascular diseases among South Asians living in the U.S. through H.R. 3592, and we hope to work with you to decrease the burden of cardiovascular diseases in the South Asian community. We are inspired by your leadership on this issue and look forward to supporting your efforts in moving this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey B. Caballero, MPH
Executive Director

