



May 10, 2022

Representative Anna Eshoo
Health Subcommittee, Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Brett Guthrie
Health Subcommittee, Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Eshoo and Ranking Member Guthrie,

On behalf of WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 3771, the South Asian Heart Health Awareness Act of 2021.

H.R. 3771 aims to reverse the trend of alarming rates of heart disease in the South Asian community. It would create grants for the development and dissemination of culturally appropriate materials to promote heart health and support conferences and workshops on research design to include communities disproportionately affected by heart disease, such as South Asian communities. In addition, it would provide funding for NIH to collect data and conduct research on cardiovascular disease among communities disproportionately affected by heart disease, such as South Asian populations living in the United States.

Heart disease is the number one killer of women. The threat of heart disease among South Asians in the U.S. is particularly acute and rising – South Asians have a four times greater risk of developing heart disease than the general population and have a much greater risk of heart attack before age 50. Federal action is critical to raising the level of awareness and making a marked impact on heart health in South Asians in the United States.

The bill's goals to enhance research and awareness are integral to WomenHeart's mission, which is to improve the lives of women with or at risk for heart disease, while fighting for equity in heart health. Through programs that train women living with heart disease to be support group leaders and community educators, through public education and prevention campaigns, through engagement with hospitals and health care providers, and through legislative and policy advocacy, WomenHeart strives to impact diverse communities of women throughout the country.

We urge Congress to pass H.R. 3771, the South Asian Heart Health Awareness Act.

Sincerely,

Amy Friedrich-Karnik
VP, Advocacy and Communications
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease