

**Statement for the Record on H.R. 3771**  
**Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr.**

Madam Chair, H.R. 3771, the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2021, introduced by Reps. Jayapal and Wilson of South Carolina, shines a light on the serious issue of cardiovascular health in communities disproportionately affected by heart disease.

Let me remind my colleagues that this bi-partisan legislation is not new. Our committee considered this legislation in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress and it was passed in the House by voice vote.

This legislation will provide grant funds to support cardiovascular health promotion and heart health research among the South Asian Community, **but also for other groups.**

We know that heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

This legislation mentions the South Asian community specifically because their risk of cardiovascular disease is four times higher than the general population.<sup>2</sup> However, this increased risk and the disproportionate impact that heart disease has on the South Asian community is often lost due to a lack of data.<sup>3</sup>

This legislation will support all communities disproportionately impacted by heart disease.

By grouping South Asians with other Asian groups, and considering Asian-Americans in data collection as one group, the higher incidence of heart disease risk and impact among South Asians is diluted.<sup>4</sup>

By focusing this legislation on disproportionately impacted populations and South Asian Americans, we can gain a more robust understanding of the impact and treatment of heart disease, as well as culturally competent prevention options that will be most likely to reduce the burden of heart disease in these groups.

My amendment makes clarifying changes to the underlying legislation by providing more targeted research and updating the authorization period.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill.

I yield back.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/facts.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2019/05/07/12/42/cover-story-south-asians-and-cardiovascular-disease-the-hidden-threat>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2019/05/07/12/42/cover-story-south-asians-and-cardiovascular-disease-the-hidden-threat>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2019/05/07/12/42/cover-story-south-asians-and-cardiovascular-disease-the-hidden-threat>