

## ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY & EXPAND ACCESS TO CARE

### **REQUEST**

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) urges Congress to support and advance legislation to reduce health disparities, increase equity in access to healthcare, and support efforts to strengthen evidence-based care by:

- Extending telehealth flexibilities;
- Ensuring medical nutrition equity;
- Improving air quality; and
- Encouraging diversity in clinical trials.

### **BACKGROUND**

***Extending Telehealth Flexibilities*** – The AAAAI thanks the House of Representatives for passing the *Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act* (H.R. 4040) and urges the Senate to act before the end of the year to extend the current telehealth flexibilities provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and establish a pathway to make these policies permanent.

***Ensuring Medical Nutrition Equity*** – The AAAAI urges members of congress to cosponsor and advance the bipartisan *Medical Nutrition Equity Act* (H.R. 3783/S. 2013), which would require coverage of medically necessary nutrition (including hypoallergenic formula) under federal and private insurance plans for defined conditions and disorders to prevent adverse health outcomes. In addition, AAAAI applauds the inclusion of language to ensure support for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) eligible individuals impacted by food allergies with the creation and distribution of accurate nutrition education materials in the *Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act* (H.R. 8450) reported out of the House Education and Labor Committee.

***Improving Air Quality*** – The AAAAI requests members of congress to cosponsor and advance the *Public Health Air Quality Act* (H.R. 8352/S. 4510) which would require the Environmental Protection Agency to deploy air quality monitoring for pollutants contributing to poor health outcomes—including asthma—across vulnerable populations.

***Encouraging diversity in clinical trials*** – The AAAAI encourages passage of the *Diversifying Investigations Via Equitable Research Studies for Everyone (DIVERSE) Trials Act* (H.R. 5030/S. 2706) which would improve diversity in clinical trials and data collection for COVID–19 and future public health threats to address social determinants of health.

### **CONTACT**

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