

**Statement of Edward T.A. Fry, MD, FACC
President
American College of Cardiology**

On

**H.R. 3771, the “South Asian Heart Health Awareness and
Research Act of 2021”**

During the

“Subcommittee Markup of Six Bills”

**Before the Energy & Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Health**

May 11, 2022

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) writes to express our strong support for H.R. 3771, the South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act, sponsored by Congresswoman Pramila Jaya pal (D-WA) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC).

The ACC envisions a world where innovation and knowledge optimize cardiovascular care and outcomes. As the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team, the mission of the College and its 54,000 members is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC bestows credentials upon cardiovascular professionals who meet stringent qualifications and leads in the formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College also provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research through its world-renowned JACC Journals, operates national cardiovascular data registries (NCDR) to measure and improve care, and offers cardiovascular accreditation to hospitals and institutions. For more, visit [ACC.org](https://www.acc.org).

H.R. 3771 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 that is 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.