

July 26, 2022

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), I am writing in strong support of the “South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2022” (H.R. 3771) introduced by Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a bill that would authorize grant programs to support heart-disease research and awareness, primarily among South Asian communities in the United States. As you know, the “South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2022” (H.R. 3771) will be considered on the House floor this week during legislative business. This bill is critically important for interventional cardiologists and their patients, and we urge Congress to vote to pass final legislation.

SCAI is a non-profit professional association with over 4,500 members representing the majority of practicing interventional cardiologists and cardiac catheterization teams in the United States, including those providing percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI). SCAI promotes excellence in invasive and interventional cardiovascular medicine through education, and the advancement of quality standards to enhance patient care.

According to a WHO report, South Asians make up 25 percent of the world’s population but 50 percent of global cardiovascular deaths. Additionally, according to a study on the “Prevalence of Diabetes by Race and Ethnicity in the United States, 2011-2016”, South Asian Americans are four times more at risk of developing heart disease than the general population, have a much greater chance of having a heart attack before age 50 and have emerged as the ethnic group with the highest prevalence of Type 2 diabetes, which is a leading cause of heart disease. H.R. 3771 would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million annually over the 2023-2027 period to research and promote awareness of heart disease in at-risk populations, including South Asian communities.

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The bill would also require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to create an Internet clearinghouse on heart health research and treatment options and to report annually to the Congress on outreach efforts and data related to heart disease in these communities.

SCAI urges Congress to support the “South Asian Heart Health Awareness and Research Act of 2022”, critical legislation that would provide grants of up to \$1 million per year to fund research and prevention of heart disease in South Asian communities. This bill is a positive step towards addressing the heart health crisis afflicting South Asian communities.

Please feel free to call Curtis Rooney, Vice President, Government Relations, SCAI, if you have any questions at 202.375.8333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rao", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sunil V. Rao, MD, FSCAI  
President, SCAI