

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

September 26, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Price, MD
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20201

RE: Draft framework for Healthy People 2030

Dear Secretary Price:

The American Academy of Audiology (the “Academy”) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft framework for the central ideas and function of the Healthy People 2030 initiative. The Academy is the world’s largest professional organization of, by, and for audiologists, representing over 12,000 members. The Academy promotes quality hearing and balance care by advancing the profession of audiology through leadership, advocacy, education, public awareness, and support of research.

Vision and Mission

The Academy strongly supports the proposed Vision and Mission for Healthy People 2030.

Foundational Principles

- We believe the proposed Foundational Principles as presented constitute a comprehensive and overarching guide to decision-making about the future direction and scope of the Healthy People 2030 initiative. We suggest modifications to add specificity to the principle regarding promoting public health and the shared responsibility among stakeholders and the public. To be meaningful, the stakeholders should be identified, not as an all-inclusive list but as a reference to anticipated stakeholder groups. Suggested Modification: “Promoting and achieving the Nation’s health and well-being is a shared responsibility that is distributed among all stakeholders at the national, state, and local levels, including health care providers, members of the public, and advocates for public health.”

Plan of Action

The Academy supports the proposed Plan of Action with the addition of a statement relative to outreach activities and awareness and communication of Healthy People 2030 objectives.

- Suggested Modification: Add “Engage in outreach activities to foster awareness of Healthy People 2030 objectives at the state, local, and national levels.”

Overarching Goals

The Academy supports the Goals as proposed.

The Academy commends the efforts of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for Healthy People 2030 to establish a framework that will improve the Healthy People initiative. The Committee's effort to ensure a meaningful, manageable, measurable and relatable set of goals and objectives is important to the initiative's success. The framework is the first step, and the important work continues as you begin to identify new and specific objectives for Healthy People 2030. We request the opportunity for the Academy and other professional health-care organizations to offer guidance and input as we contributed to the process for Healthy People 2020. We fully supported then and will continue to stand ready to support the active inclusion of audiology in the list of health-care professions that address the critical needs of individuals with hearing and balance disorders.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Windmill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Ian Windmill, PhD
President, American Academy of Audiology