

August 3, 2020

The Honorable Mike Thompson
406 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Thompson, Welch, Matsui, Schweikert, and Johnson:

Thank you for your continued leadership on telehealth as leaders of the House Telehealth Caucus. The undersigned organizations are pleased to support your recently introduced legislation, the *Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2020* (HR 7663). This legislation takes critical steps toward ensuring all Medicare beneficiaries have continued access to telehealth services after the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) period.

For nearly 20 years, Medicare statute has severely limited telehealth services while other payers increasingly relied on telehealth to provide care to patients when and where they need it. This disparity became shockingly clear when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and in-person care was not an option for most patients. While Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) acted quickly to implement waivers to allow for the reimbursement of telehealth services during the COVID-19 PHE, seniors will lose access to this important care unless Congress again takes decisive action.

According to preliminary data from CMS, in the last week of April, nearly 1.7 million Medicare beneficiaries utilized telehealth services versus 13,000 per week prior to the PHE.^[1] Utilization did not significantly vary across geographical location (rural vs. urban), sex, race, or ethnicity.^[2] Health care systems, providers, and the federal government (via grants) invested heavily in telehealth over the past few months to ensure their patients can continue to receive necessary care. There is no longer doubt that clinicians and patients alike benefit from the utilization of telehealth; however, whether these services can continue to be utilized widely after the PHE depends on further action from Congress.

If passed, the *Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2020* will provide CMS the authority and ability to make evidenced-based decisions to ensure all Medicare beneficiaries continue to have access to these important services. The legislation includes four major and vital provisions to this end:

- Removing arbitrary geographic restrictions on where a patient must be located in order to utilize telehealth services;
- Enabling patients to continue to receive telehealth services in their homes;
- Ensuring federally qualified health centers and rural health centers can furnish telehealth services; and

- Establishing permanent waiver authority for the Secretary of Health & Human Services during future emergency periods and for 90 days after the expiration of a public health emergency period.

Thank you for your continued leadership and we look forward to working with you to ensure the *Protecting Access to Post-COVID-19 Telehealth Act of 2020* becomes law.

Sincerely,

98point6 Inc.
Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
Adventist Health
AGMP Telehealth
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Connected Care
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
Alliance of Community Health Plans
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Foundation of America
Amazon Web Services
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of PAs
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Nurses Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Telemedicine Association
American Urological Association
Amwell
AspenRidge Recovery
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
At Your Service Psychiatry, PLLC
athenahealth
Avenu Healthcare Services
Babylon
Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance

Beacon Medical Group, Inc.
Bear River Mental Health Services, Inc.
Better Medicare Alliance
Brave Health
bright.md
California Health Information Partnership & Services Organization (CalHIPSOS)
California Psychological Association
Care Home By RNs
Caregility
Center to Advance Palliative Care
Centerstone
Cerner
Change Healthcare
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
ChristianaCare
CHRISTUS Health
Chronic Care Management
Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.
CirrusMD Inc.
Cleveland Clinic Florida and CompreCare Affiliate
Clusterbusters
Cognova, LLC
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Comprehensive Headache Clinic
Consumer Technology Association
Convenient Care Association
COPD Foundation
Cosan Group
Covenant HealthCare
CoverMyMeds
Cromford Health
CU Healthcare Innovation Fund
Curve Health
Danielle Byron Henry Migraine Foundation
Diabetes Management Partners DBA GlyCare
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC)
Digital Medicine Society (DiMe)
Doctor On Demand
DocViaWeb
doxy.me
Dr. Austin Roberts Family And Implant Dentistry
Duke Health
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
eHealth Initiative
Electronic Health Record Association
Endocrine Society
Epic Systems Corporation
ExamMed

Federation of American Hospitals
Foothold Technology
Four Corners Community Behavioral Health Inc.
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
GlobalMed
GlobalMedia Group, LLC DBA GlobalMed
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Go2Care
Greenway Health, LLC
Hazel Health
HCA Healthcare
Health Catalyst, Inc.
Health Innovation Alliance
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthcare Leadership Council
HealthFlow.io
Hims & Hers
HiTalk
Holland Healthcare
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA)
HSH Lifestyles, LLC
inHealth Lifestyle Therapeutics, Inc.
InSight + Regroup
Intel Corporation
International OCD Foundation
Johns Hopkins Medicine
KJ Solutions
Langlois Medical Corporation
Leadership OD
LeadingAge
Legal Action Center
Leidos
León Concierge Medicine
Lewy Body Dementia Association
LifePoint Health
LifeWIRE Corp
LiV-Connected
Livongo
Maury Regional Health
Medical Group Management Association
MediTelecare
MedStar Health
MEDWEB
Meetcaregivers
Mend VIP, Inc.
Miles for Migraine
MindPath Care Centers, PLLC
Minnesota HIMSS Chapter
Mount Sinai Health System

MUSC Health
mvmtAi inc.
National Association of ACOs
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Association of Social Workers
National Council of State Boards of Nursing
National Headache Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Neighborhood Service Organization
Net Medical Xpress
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
NewWave Telecom & Technologies
NextGen Healthcare
North American Primary Care Research Group
OCHIN
Oncology Nursing Society
One Medical
Palmetto Care Connections
PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine
Pathways
PCHAlliance
Primary Care Collaborative
Providence St. Joseph Health
Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)
PursueCare
QueerDoc, PLLC
Quio Technologies
Qure4u, Inc
RediClinic, LLC
Residential Eating Disorders Consortium
RethinkMyHealthcare
Rhinogram, LLC
Royal Philips
School Based Urgent Care Network
Senior Care Clinic House Calls
Shatterproof
SHIELDS For Families
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Sound Physicians
South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
Southern Headache Society
Spectrum Health
Spina Bifida Association
Stanford Health Care
Strategic Health Information Exchange Collaborative (SHIEC)

Strategic Interests
Strategic Solutions
Suquino Inc
Sutter Health
Synergia Integrated teleBehavioral Health
Talkspace
TapestryHealth
Teladoc Health
Telehealth Alliance of Oregon
TeleMed2U
The ERISA Industry Committee
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
The Joint Commission
The MAVEN Project
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The TeleDentists
The University of Texas at Austin, UT Health Austin
Third Eye Health, Inc.
Tir Health Advisors LLC
Tourette Association of America
Trinity Health
United Spinal Association
University of Michigan
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)
University of San Diego
University Spine & Sports Specialists, PLLC
URAC
Validic, Inc.
VirtuOx
Vital Voice and Speech
ViTel Net
Welcome Home Health, Inc.
Wendy M Smith and Associates
Xylo Technologies Inc
Yale New Haven Health System
Yorktel
Ziegler
Zocdoc

[1] <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20200715.454789/full/>

[2] Ibid