

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.<sup>[1]</sup> Utilization did not significantly vary across geographical location (rural vs. urban), sex, race, or ethnicity.<sup>[2]</sup> 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 (CalHIPS0)  
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

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

[2] Ibid