



DRAFT LETTER 1

Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee
Arkansas House of Representatives
500 Woodlane St.
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 1063, which would provide more Arkansas patients with access to quality healthcare through telemedicine services.

I know how valuable telehealth is in today's healthcare world. The framework for telehealth proposed under HB 1063 would make more efficient use of existing healthcare resources. It also would empower patients and Arkansas-licensed physicians and other healthcare providers to use modern technology to diagnose and treat common, non-emergency medical conditions. Consequently, this legislation would help address two long-standing healthcare problems currently facing Arkansas: cost and access. The high price of care and a shortage of healthcare providers pose serious challenges to Arkansas's health and financial well-being.

We hope you will support this bill and give providers the ability to safely deliver care and help reduce costs. Because Governor Hutchinson waived Arkansas' existing restrictions, Telehealth's many benefits have become starkly clear over the past year of dealing with COVID-19. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that telehealth is a critical part of the healthcare system and should be embraced by providers. That is why I hope you will vote "yes" on HB 1063.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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DRAFT LETTER 2

Via email

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SUBJECT: Support for HB 1063

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I overwhelmingly support the telehealth provisions of House Bill 1063. Many Arkansas-licensed providers appreciate the ability to connect with patients via telehealth to diagnose common conditions, prescribe medication or follow up on treatment plans. The last year of COVID-19 quarantine restrictions to limit in-person interactions where possible really proved how valuable it is to keeping people healthy. Unfortunately, we have only had access to these benefits because the Governor waived the restrictions that Arkansas has on telehealth, and now we need to pass forward-looking legislation to ensure that Arkansas never goes back to restricting access to these important tools. The benefit of telehealth to both patients and employers are significant, and Arkansas has restricted this valuable benefit for too long.

HB 1063 represents policy that serves the public well. It is critical that Arkansas join other states in making it easier for providers to provide virtual care and for more people to have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

I thank you for taking the time to consider this issue, and I hope the Committee will support HB 1063.

Best,

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