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Support HB 1063:
Keep Telehealth in Arkansas

Make the Governor's Executive Order Permanent

HB 1063 makes permanent the temporary changes Governor Hutchinson's Executive Order made to the Telemedicine Act during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those changes allowed Arkansans to access the benefits of telehealth without the unnecessary restrictions mandated by the existing statute. The proposal allows Arkansas-licensed practitioners to use appropriate technology as long as it meets the standard of care and removes the audio-only restriction from the Telemedicine Act.

Arkansans have experienced the benefits of greater access to healthcare through telemedicine during the pandemic, all in thanks to the Governor's Order. HB 1063 should be passed to ensure this temporary waiving of restrictions becomes a permanent means for Arkansans to access timely, effective and affordable care.

Governor's Executive Order 20-05

"I am suspending the provisions the Telemedicine Act at Ark. Code Ann. §17-80-401, et seq., requiring an in-person encounter, or a face to face examination using real time audio and visual means to establish a professional relationship… a physician may **establish a professional relationship with a patient using any technology deemed appropriate by the provider**, including the telephone, with a citizen located in Arkansas to diagnose, treat…"

VOTE YES ON HB 1063!

What HB 1063 does:

- **Expand access to needed care** for patients living in rural areas without reliable broadband by permitting the use of store-and-forward technologies.
- **Enable providers** to use their education, expertise, and discretion to determine which telemedicine technologies are most appropriate for a given patient without unnecessarily restricting their care options.
- **Hold all practitioners to the same standard of care** regardless of which tools they use.
- **Offer a more convenient, patient-centered, and affordable healthcare option** for working-class families who struggle to find an accessible provider.