

June 29, 2022

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
466 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
2442 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Walberg
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Permanently Expanding Telehealth Options for Employees

Thank you for your on-going commitment to examining the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and for including a temporary extension of the telehealth flexibilities 151 days post public health emergency in the FY2022 funding omnibus. Much attention has been given to the important role telehealth and remote care services have played in extending access to high quality care during the pandemic. The undersigned organizations write to support and endorse your legislation, the Telehealth Benefit Expansion for Workers Act of 2022 ([H.R.7353](#)), which would amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat telehealth services as excepted benefits.

As you know, on June 23, 2020, the Labor, HHS and Treasury Departments jointly issued an FAQ pertaining to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and other health coverage issues.¹ Specifically, it stated that the agencies would take a non-enforcement position for employers wishing to provide telehealth or other remote care services to employees ineligible for any other employer-sponsored group health plan.

Therefore, until this legislation is enacted, the treatment of telehealth services as an excepted benefit is temporary and will expire once the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends. Uncertainty has driven employer hesitancy to offer telehealth benefits that will have to be taken away a short time later. Passage of this legislation is needed to provide certainty and ensure expanded, long-term access to these services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated the immense benefits of telehealth and remote care services. Telehealth benefits reduce the need to leave home or work and risk infection at a physician's office, provide a solution for individuals with limited mobility or access to transportation, and has the potential to address provider shortages. Workers want these benefits, and employers want to continue offering these comprehensive telehealth benefits. We commend you for introducing this critical legislation that will

¹ <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/FFCRA-Part-43-FAQs.pdf>

ensure hardworking employees, retirees, and their families can access high-quality, cost-effective care when and where they need it most, regardless of employment status. It is our hope that the bipartisan nature of the bill, widespread support among stakeholders, and the common-sense approach to increasing access to virtual care for employees will propel this legislation forward and ensure quick passage.

Again, thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure employees can continue to receive care where and when they need it.

Sincerely,

98point6
Alliance for Connected Care
American Telemedicine Association
Array Behavioral Care
Ascension Health
Aspire New Life, LLC
ATA Action
AvodahMed
Babylon
Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance
Blue Cirrus Consulting
Care Compass Network
CareHive Health
CDW
Cerebral, Inc.
CommonSpirit Health
Community Wellness Technology, Inc.
Connect America
Dermatologist On Call
DreamCloud Psychiatry
eInfectionMD
EPOWERdoc, LLC
Equum Medical
Forefront Telecare, Inc.
Form Health
Hazel Health
Healthcare Leadership Council
Included Health
International OCD Foundation
Leadership OD
LifePoint Health
Luigi Leblanc
Marius Pharmaceuticals
Moffitt Cancer Center
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
NetApp
One Medical
Oshi Health
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care
Premise Health
Quit Genius
Sentara Healthcare
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
South Carolina Chapter of HIMSS

Talkspace
Teladoc Health
Telecare Anywhere
Telemetrynd
The Kinetix Group
TheraTec, Inc
Third Eye Health
Trinity Health
URAC
Validic, Inc.
Walk-in Dermatology
Wizecare
Yale New Haven Health System
Zane Networks LLC.
Zipnosis
Zoom Video Communications