

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Speaker Johnson, and House Minority Leader Jeffries:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in ensuring access to health care delivered virtually, and for your commitment to considering permanent telehealth policies. We write today to urge Congress to make permanent important telehealth flexibilities well in advance of the statutory deadline of December 31, 2024. Action earlier this year will provide much needed certainty, and safeguard against this important policy getting left behind among competing priorities at the end of the year.

Telehealth policy flexibilities granted during the pandemic, and subsequently extended in 2022, have supported telehealth access nationwide, including more than 30 million Americans in Medicare and many of the 33 million Americans with High-Deductible Health Plans and Health Savings Accounts.

Clinicians need telehealth to expand access to care and support strong patient relationships, and they value the flexibility created by the option for remote care when clinically appropriate. Important safety net providers like community health centers and rural health clinics have depended on these flexibilities, as have clinicians such as physical therapists, speech therapists and occupational therapists to extend access to patients. Current telehealth flexibilities have played a critical role in promoting access to vital health care services including advanced specialists (e.g. oncologists) and mental health services without a previous in-person appointment. This is particularly true for patients in rural and underserved areas, patients with mobility issues, and patients with transportation or other limitations that prevent them from accessing in-person care in a timely manner.

Predictability in telehealth policy now, in advance of the end of year deadline would:

- Create certainty for Medicare beneficiaries (and the Medicare program), who will otherwise wonder if they will have continued access to clinicians and services they are using virtually.
- Strengthen our national health care workforce by enabling greater number of clinicians to provide telehealth services and allowing for investment in flexible virtual staffing models that address current workforce shortages while maintaining high quality health care.
- Ensure continued investment in the technology tools and infrastructure to offer telehealth services, particularly for smaller providers serving the rural and underserved – who cannot afford to invest in these tools without a reimbursement pathway.

- Allow health plans and employers to design and offer benefits leveraging telehealth services well in advance of open enrollment periods in November. This challenge is particularly acute for high-deductible health plans offering discounted telehealth services.

Without clear guidance from Congress on a long-term approach for telehealth flexibilities, health care delivery systems will not be able to invest sufficient resources to allow maximal access to patients.

We believe that policymakers now have more than enough evidence to see the benefits of telehealth and consider a permanent pathway to ensure that telehealth continues to be available and accessible. We look forward to working with you to answer any remaining questions.

Thank you for your past leadership, and we look forward to working with you to ensure consistent access to telehealth for all people in America.

Sincerely,

9amHealth
Active Minds
AGMP Telehealth
AiArthritis
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Connected Care
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
Alliance of Community Health Plans
Alpha-1 Foundation
ALS Association
Amazon
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Suicidology
American Clinical Neurophysiology Society
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American Gastroenterological Association
American Headache Society
American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Physical Therapy Association

American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Telemedicine Association
American Urological Association
AMGA
Amwell
Anderson Medical Services LLC
Anderson Mental Health Services LLC
Ascension
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)
ATA Action
Avenue Healthcare Services, Inc.
Bicycle Health
Billings Clinic
BJC Health System
Brightline
Caregility
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Freedom and Prosperity
Center to Advance Palliative Care
Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.
CirrusMD, inc.
Clinical Social Work Association
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Collette Health
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Compassion & Choices
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connect Speech Therapy
Consumer Technology Association
Continuum Therapy Partners
Convenient Care Association
CopilotIQ Health
Curai, Inc.
Cure CMD
Cure VCP Disease
Dermatologist On Call
DermDox Dermatology Centers
Dogtown Media
DreamCloud Psychiatry
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy, & Action
Emergency Department Practice Management Association
Employers Council on Flexible Compensation (ECFC)

Encounter Telehealth
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Essentia Health
Evanston Regional Hospital Sleep Disorders Center
fabric
Facial Pain Association
flok Health
Florida Health Information Management Association
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
FreedomWorks
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
GenieMD, Inc.
Genome Medical, Inc.
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Gilda's Club South Florida, Inc.
GRIN2B Foundation
Grossman & Grossman, Ltd.
H-LINK Technologies
Hazel Health
Healthcare Leadership Council
HealthFlow.io
Healthqueer
Heart Failure Society of America
Heart Rhythm Society
Heartbeat Health
Hello Alpha
Homeward Health
HSA Coalition
Hydrocephalus Association
Immune Deficiency Foundation
IMPOWER
Intermountain Health
International OCD Foundation
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation
IU Health, Inc.
Johns Hopkins Medicine
KidneyCAN
KJ Solutions
Kohnling, Inc.
Leadership OD
LeadingAge
Life365, Inc.
Loma Linda University Health
LUNgevity Foundation
Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation
Mass General Brigham
Massachusetts Health Data Consortium

Melanoma Research Foundation
Mend VIP, Inc.
Mental Health America
Michigan Medicine
Miles for Migraine
Minnesota Hospital Association
MitoAction
Moffitt Cancer Center
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC)
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National League for Nursing
National Mental Health LLC
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Rural Health Association
Nemours Children's Health
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
NIM Longevity
NOCD
Noma Therapy
North Dakota Health Information Management Association (NDHIMA)
Omada Health, Inc.
Oncology Nursing Society
Origin Healthcare
Oscar Health, Inc.
Oshi Health
Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
Point of Pride
Population Health Analytics Association Incorporated
Power of Three Psychiatry, PLLC
Primary Care Development Corporation
Psychotherapy Action Network
Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine Group LLC
QMed, LLC
QueerDoc, PLLC
Red Cedar Counseling
REDC Consortium
Rhinogram, Inc.
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
RxHomeTest
Senior Care Clinic House Calls

SharpsCue, LLC
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Society for Participatory Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
South Carolina My Care Team
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Spectrum: The Other Clinic
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation
SSM Health
St. John's Health
Stanford Health Care
STXBP1 Foundation
Summus
Systolica LLC
Talkiatry
Teladoc Health
Telecare Anywhere
Teledentistry.com
TeleMed2U
Texas Health Resources
The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC)
The LIBRE Initiative
The Marfan Foundation
The Parkinson Alliance
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
TheraTec, Inc
Thriving Populace Inc
Transcarent
Trinity Health
U.S. Pain Foundation
UnityPoint Health
UPMC Health System
URAC
UVA Health
UW Medicine
Vesta Healthcare
Vital Voice and Speech LLC
ViTel Net
Vivante Health
WeKonnnect LLC
Wind River Parkinson's Group