

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  
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  
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