April 22, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  The Honorable Don Young
House of Representatives  House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building  2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0518  Washington, DC 20515-0200

Dear Chair Eshoo and Rep. Young,

The Alliance for Connected Care applauds your introduction of H.R.6474 – the Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act. As you know, broadband access is a critical remaining barrier to ensuring millions of homebound Americans have access to telehealth services. Our members strongly support continued Congressional leadership to ensure access to telehealth services, including the passage of H.R. 6474.

Access to broadband has always been important but is now absolutely critical as most Americans turn to telehealth services to meet their healthcare needs. Our members have seen 100-fold increases in the use of telemedicine by their patients. Stanford Hospital, a member of the Alliance, is doing 70% of all of their care through telemedicine. We strongly support the expansion of the program from rural areas, as providers in areas all over the country are experiencing broadband network challenges due to COVID-10 traffic. We also strongly support efforts to ensure deployment of these broadband services can happen rapidly, as the need for this service is already peaking.

The Alliance is dedicated to improving access to care through the adoption of telemedicine and remote patient monitoring. Our membership brings together diverse industry leaders - from providers of direct patient engagement to physician consultation and remote monitoring, as well as the connected care technologies that are already facilitating the future of health care delivery. Members of the Alliance for Connected Care have seen firsthand how expanded access to telehealth and remote patient monitoring can better coordinate care, create economic efficiencies, and drive better health outcomes.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Chris Adamec at 202-640-5941 or cadamec@connectwithcare.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Krista Drobac
Executive Director