



ALLIANCE *for*
CONNECTED CARE

March 14, 2014

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

On behalf of the Alliance for Connected Care (“the Alliance”), thank you for your leadership in advancing provisions to promote the use of telehealth services in the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) Repeal and Medicare Beneficiary Access Improvement Act approved by the Senate Committee on Finance. We applaud your efforts and are pleased about the potential impact of your proposals in strengthening the nation’s health care system.

Specifically, the inclusion of specific provisions to authorize the use of telehealth or “Connected Care” technologies under alternative payment models represents a major step forward in breaking down the barriers that providers currently face. Additionally, the inclusion of telehealth as professional development metric for quality measurement is very positive as is the Medicare demonstration project on remote patient monitoring (RPM). The demonstration will provide an important opportunity for home health agencies and other providers to prove that Connected Care technology is capable of improving patient outcomes and overall convenience of care for patients.

The Alliance for Connected Care is a 501(c)(6) organization formed to create a statutory and regulatory environment in which every provider in America is permitted to deliver and be adequately compensated for providing safe, high-quality care using Connected Care at his or her discretion, regardless of care delivery location or technological modality. Our members are leading health care companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, retail pharmacies, technology companies, telecommunications companies, and health care entrepreneurs.

Again, thank you for advancing the use of Connected Care within the pending SGR reform legislation. We look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goal of increasing patient access to high-quality, safe telehealth technologies, which as you know, hold enormous potential to improve health outcomes and achieve cost savings for the entire health care system. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any assistance or additional information regarding the Alliance’s related efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Krista Drobac". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Krista Drobac
Executive Director