

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Xochitl Torres Small
U.S. House of Representatives
430 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martha McSally
U.S. Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
U.S. House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Jones
U.S. Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Torres Small, Senator McSally, Representative Newhouse and Senator Jones,

We are pleased to support the Increasing Rural Health Access During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Act of 2020 (H.R. 7190/S. 3951.) This important legislation would improve access to virtual care tools for Americans with chronic conditions living in rural America, on tribal lands, or in medically underserved areas.

Virtual care and remote monitoring technologies can facilitate ongoing management and support for those Americans living with chronic conditions, illnesses, and disabilities. Remote monitoring solutions enable individuals to remain safely in their home where they can be properly supported to manage their conditions while also reducing the strain on the healthcare system. The data generated from the devices and sensors can be shared with clinicians or telehealth providers to make a care encounter more robust.

The Increasing Rural Health Access During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Act of 2020 would empower clinicians and patients alike by availing additional digital health resources to those most vulnerable to poor outcomes if they contract COVID-19. Rural health systems and providers often lack the ability to invest in innovative technologies. Moreover, provider shortages and transportation limitations can often pose significant challenges to the provision of care in rural and tribal communities. This bill provides valuable funding for rural providers to leverage virtual care technologies to manage the care of their patients living with chronic conditions.

The undersigned organizations are pleased to support the Increasing Rural Health Access During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Act of 2020. We appreciate your leadership on ushering in a new standard of care that facilitates access to digital health resources for all Americans, especially those in rural and underserved communities. We stand ready to work with you and your colleagues toward the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Connected Care
American Telemedicine Association
Connected Health Initiative
Health Innovation Alliance
Livongo
National Rural Health Association
United Spinal Association