



March 29, 2021

The Honorable Kelly Hancock
Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce
Sam Houston Building, 370
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Senate Bill 992

Dear Chairman Hancock:

The Alliance for Connected Care (the Alliance) is an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating the delivery of high-quality care using connected care technology. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, health systems and technology innovators, and our Advisory Board includes more than 25 patient and provider groups.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 992. This legislation would allow health professionals located outside of the state of Texas to provide telehealth services to patients residing within the state of Texas so long as they are licensed and authorized to provide the service in the state in which they are licensed. The bill would maintain that the standard of care for such services would be the same as for health professionals providing in-person health care services to a patient, and would allow for the establishment of a provider-patient relationship via a telehealth visit.

The increase in use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted its ability to fill gaps in patient access to care. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all 50 states and the District of Columbia used emergency authority to [waive](#) some aspect(s) of state licensure requirements to facilitate patients getting care. This has provided an unprecedented opportunity for patients, providers, and policymakers to explore the impact of cross-state care. This has benefited the delivery of health care in many ways, but perhaps most notably, it has opened up many new avenues for patient choice and access to care. Now is the time to build on this momentum.

One of the biggest barriers to telehealth becoming a regular patient and provider choice is the administrative burden caused by the variation in licensure requirements from state to state. Senate Bill 992 would help alleviate such administrative burden by not requiring additional licensing for an out-of-state provider to practice telehealth in the state of Texas so long as they hold an active license and are in good standing in the state in which they are licensed. The bill would also help improve patient access to quality health care and could expand access to underserved communities in Texas who may not have access to services they need where they reside.

We hope the Senate Committee on Business & Commerce will support SB 992. Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Casey Osgood at 203-536-5865 or casey.osgood@connectwithcare.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista Drobac".

Krista Drobac
Executive Director
Alliance for Connected Care