



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Bob Onder  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health and Pensions  
201 W Capitol Ave, Rm. 416  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Re: Senate Bill 193**

Dear Chairman Onder:

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 193. This legislation would remove geographic proximity requirements in collaborative practice arrangements between physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) based in rural health clinics. The bill would also allow APRNs providing nursing services under a collaborative practice arrangement to provide such services outside the geographic proximity requirement if the collaborating physician and APRN utilize telehealth in the care of the patient and if the services are provided in a rural area located in a health professional shortage area.

The Alliance believes that eliminating geographic proximity requirements, especially for telehealth services, will significantly improve access to care for patients in the state. Such barriers often delay care to patients, especially in rural underserved areas where there are often provider shortages and where APRNs are predominant in the state of Missouri. Telehealth has been critical to ensuring continuity of care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has highlighted the ability to fill gaps in patient access to care. APRNs can play a critical role in facilitating this care and should not be bound by geographic proximity requirements in delivering such services.

We hope the Committee on Health and Pensions will support Senate Bill 193. 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](mailto: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