



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Jeanie Riddle
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Professional Registration
201 W Capitol Ave, Rm. 321
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: Senate Bill 584

Dear Chairwoman Riddle:

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 584. This legislation would repeal the requirement under current law that supervised practice of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) under a collaborative practice arrangement by a collaborating physician occur for a one-month period of time. The bill would also repeal the requirement that an APRN can only provide telehealth services in rural areas of need in order to practice telehealth services outside the geographic proximity requirements of a collaborative practice agreement.

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 Professional Registration will support Senate Bill 584. 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