

October 28, 2021

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson  
Governor, State of Arkansas  
State Capitol, Room 250  
500 Woodlane Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72201

**RE: Letter to Governors on Recent or Impending Expiration of Licensure Flexibilities for Care Across State Lines**

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

Expanded access to telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on its ability to fill gaps in patient access to care. During the public health emergency, governors across the country used emergency authority to [waive](#) some aspect(s) of state licensure requirements to facilitate greater patient access to care. Doing so allowed licensed medical professionals more flexibility to treat patients in other states when there were pressing needs or specialized expertise not available where they lived. Our experience during the pandemic has provided an unprecedented opportunity for patients, providers, and policymakers to explore the impact of cross-state care – and we have seen it benefit the delivery of health care in many ways, but most notably through new avenues for patient access to care.

Over the last few months, many states have allowed COVID-19 emergency declarations to expire and the licensure flexibilities to expire with it, despite the ongoing pandemic and surge in cases due to the Delta variant. This has been extremely detrimental and disruptive to necessary and ongoing patient care. Health care providers have had to [scramble to notify thousands of out-of-state patients](#) that their telehealth appointments were no longer possible, and that they would have to drive across state borders to keep their appointments.

While challenging for all patients, this reduction in access is particularly troublesome for immunocompromised patients still at high risk for COVID-19. It can also be critically important for individuals who require specialized care, have mobility challenges, or have significant provider shortages and/or geographic distances from the care they need. Many of these patients relied on telehealth throughout the pandemic to see their specialists who reside in another state, made possible by licensure flexibilities enacted at the start of the pandemic, so as not to risk exposure to the virus and to maintain continuity of care through virtual options. In light of these recent changes, it is not uncommon for patients to [drive just over the state border](#) to take a telehealth appointment from their car in a parking lot.

Given the urgency of the times as more states consider rolling back flexibilities enacted at the start of the pandemic, [states must act now to ensure patients can access the care they need where they reside and when they need it](#), without having to choose between cancelling an appointment or traveling long distances and risking potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus for an in-person visit.

**The undersigned organizations strongly urge all state governors to maintain and expand licensure flexibilities for the duration of the federal public health emergency, reinstating licensure flexibilities if they have expired or implementing new flexibilities to better address patient needs during the ongoing pandemic.** This is critical to ensure patient access to necessary health care services and providers. We

propose the following principles to consider for policies that should be in place right now to ensure patient access to care:

1. We urge governors and state legislatures to keep licensure and telehealth flexibilities in place throughout the duration of the federal public health emergency to ensure patients can access care regardless of their location, without the burden of traveling far distances to receive care or risking exposure to the virus from in-person care.
2. We call on governors and state legislatures to work with health experts to implement solutions to immediately address the ongoing impact of the pandemic on patient care that allows their citizens with more access to and choice of care – including care provided from health care professionals in other states.
3. Moving forward, we call on governors and state legislatures to expand their participation in health professional compacts that allow for the safe and accountable mutual recognition of health professional licensure among states.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Connected Care

ALS Association

National Organization for Rare Disorders

ADNP Kids Research Foundation

Advocacy & Awareness for Immune Disorders Association (AAIDA)

Alabama Association of Health Information Management (AAHIM)

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alpha Medical, Inc

Amazon

American Academy of Home Care Medicine

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Physical Medicine And Rehabilitation

American Association for Respiratory Care

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American College Health Association

American Council on Education

American Geriatrics Society

American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living

American Health Information Management Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Pharmacists Association

American Physical Therapy Association

American Porphyria Foundation

American Psychoanalytic Association

American Psychological Association

American Society of Nephrology

American Telemedicine Association

American Urological Association

Americans for Prosperity

AMGA  
AMN Healthcare  
Amwell  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Appendix Cancer / Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Research Foundation  
Arizona Health Information Management Association  
Array Behavioral Care  
Arthritis Foundation  
Associated Medical Schools of New York  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Association for Creatine Deficiencies  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AICCU)  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania  
Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities  
Association of Oncology Social Work  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation  
Atrius Health  
Avery's Hope  
AXYS  
Billings Clinic  
Bon Secours Mercy Health  
CACNA1A Foundation  
Care Compass Network  
Case Western Reserve University  
Center for Freedom and Prosperity  
Centerstone  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation  
ChristianaCare  
CirrusMD  
Clinical Social Work Association  
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients  
Colorado Health Information Management Association  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Congenital Hyperinsulinism International  
Connected Home Living  
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
Cornell University  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia  
Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges (CINC)

Cromford Health  
CT Conference of Independent Colleges  
Cure CMD  
Cure HHT  
Cure SMA  
Cure VCP Disease, Inc.  
Cushing's Support & Research Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute  
Dreamsickle Kids Foundation  
Duke University Health System  
Dup15q Alliance  
Emory University  
Encounter Telehealth  
Epic  
ExamMed  
Fibromuscular Dysplasia Society of America  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
First Stop Health, LLC  
Florida Health Information Management Association  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
Gaucher Community Alliance  
Genesys Heart Institute  
GenieMD, Inc  
Georgia Independent College Association  
Global Liver Institute  
GRIN2B Foundation  
Hardeman County Community Health Center  
HCU Network America  
Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society (HIMSS)  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
HiTalk  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey  
Independent Colleges of Washington  
Intermountain Healthcare  
International OCD Foundation  
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation  
International WAGR Syndrome Association  
Jewish Family Service of Atlantic County  
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans  
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine  
Kansas Health Information Management Association  
Kohnling, Inc.  
Kroger

Kroger Health  
LiV-Connected  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Maryland Hospital Association  
Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA)  
Mass General Brigham  
Mayo Clinic  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Memorial Sloan Kettering  
MGA Homecare  
Miles for Migraine  
Minnesota Health Information Management Association  
Minnesota Private College Council  
Mississippi Health Information Management Association  
MitoAction  
MN HIMSS Chapter  
Moffitt Cancer Center  
Montana Health Information Management Association  
Multiple System Atrophy Coalition  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
Narcolepsy Network  
National Association for Behavioral Healthcare  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National PKU News  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association (NTSAD)  
Nebraska Health Information Management Association  
Nemours Children's Health  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
Nevada Health Information Management Association  
New Hampshire Nurses Association  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
New York Health Information Management Association  
New York University  
North Dakota Health Information Management Association  
NYU Langone Health  
OCHIN  
Ohio Health Information Management Association  
One Medical  
Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities  
OrHIMA  
Orion Behavioral Health Network

Our Odyssey  
Palmetto Care Connections  
PAVMT (PAs in Virtual Medicine & Telemedicine)  
PCHAlliance  
Penn State University  
Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association  
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation  
Princeton University  
Providence  
Psychiatric Medical Care  
Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)  
PTEN Hamartoma Tumor Syndrome Foundation  
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation  
Qure4u Health  
Rare and Undiagnosed Network (RUN)  
REDC Consortium  
Remember The Girls  
Rochester Regional Health  
Rockhurst University  
Samaritan Daytop Village  
Sara's Cure (Clear Cell Sarcoma Foundation)  
Scripps  
SLC6A1 Connect  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
South Carolina Department of Mental Health  
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System  
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation  
SSM Health  
Stanford Children's Health  
Stanford Health Care  
STXBP1 Foundation  
Superficial Siderosis Research Alliance  
SYNGAP1 Foundation  
Tennessee Health Information Management Association  
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association  
Texas Health Information Management Association  
The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation  
The E.WE Foundation  
The ERISA Industry Committee  
The Hypersomnia Foundation  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Marfan Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
Traverse Therapeutics  
Trinity Health  
Turner Syndrome Society of the United States  
UMass Memorial Health

United Leukodystrophy Foundation  
UnityBPO  
University of Iowa Health Care  
University of Maryland Faculty Physicians, Inc.  
University of Southern California  
UW Health  
Vasculitis Foundation  
Vesta Healthcare  
Vestibular Disorders Association  
VHL Alliance  
Virtual Physical Therapists, PLLC  
Vizient, Inc.  
Wilhelm Foundation  
Wisconsin Health Information Management Association  
Xia-Gibbs Society