



ALLIANCE for
CONNECTED CARE

ALLIANCE STATEMENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TELEHEALTH EXTENSION AND EVALUATION ACT

Legislation by Senators Cortez-Masto and Young creates the path to retain patient access to telehealth

WASHINGTON D.C. February 7, 2022 – The [Alliance for Connected Care](#) (“The Alliance”) is pleased to support the introduction of the bipartisan **Telehealth Extension and Evaluation Act** and applauds Senators Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Young (R-IN) for their leadership in drafting this crucial legislation to ensure predictable patient access to telehealth following the end of the public health emergency.

“We call on Congress to take up and pass the Telehealth Evaluation and Extension Act this spring, said Alliance for Connected Care executive director, Krista Drobac. This legislation will provide certainty to beneficiaries and healthcare providers alike, while ensuring sufficient time is taken to analyze the impact of telehealth on patient care throughout the pandemic to inform permanent telehealth reform.”

The [Telehealth Extension and Evaluation Act](#) will establish a 2-year extension of the widely supported telehealth services Congress enacted during the pandemic, while ensuring a thorough evaluation of these services prior to future permanent action by Congress. The legislation also includes extremely important provisions to ensure the continued provision of telehealth services by Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers – and important provisions to ensure continued access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through telehealth.

This legislation follows a [letter](#) sent to Congressional leaders by the Alliance for Connected Care and more than 330 organizations last week calling for a “*pathway to comprehensive permanent telehealth reform that would provide certainty to beneficiaries and our nation’s health care providers while providing sufficient time for Congress and the Administration to analyze the impact of telehealth on patient care.*”

Health care providers across the nation have made substantial investments in new technologies to safely treat patients during the pandemic. Many of the telehealth flexibilities that have improve patient access to care are temporary and limited to the duration of the COVID-19 PHE – and impact both public health programs and private health coverage.

Virtual care is a fundamental part of the U.S. health care system now and well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. And while many of the most compelling virtual care clinical use cases are only now emerging, more communities than ever have experienced the powerful impact telehealth has had in bridging gaps in care caused by the crisis-level mental health workforce shortage. Many underserved communities that historically have had limited access to specialty care can now beam in top specialists in neurology, oncology, neonatology, and other critical specialties to help save lives and treat critically ill patients.

The Alliance for Connected Care is dedicated to improving access to care through the reduction of policy, legal and regulatory barriers to the adoption of telemedicine and remote patient monitoring. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the spectrum, representing health systems, health payers, and technology innovators. The Alliance works in partnership with an Advisory Board of 40 patient and provider groups, including many types of clinician specialty and patient advocacy groups who wish to better utilize the opportunities created by telehealth.