

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership in expanding access to virtual care and for your commitment to consideration of permanent telehealth access policies. We write today to urge the U.S. Senate to support the passage of the Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023 (S. 1001/H.R. 1843), which the House Ways & Means Committee advanced on a bipartisan basis earlier this year.

We appreciate your leadership in December 2022 to ensure telehealth access was extended through the end of December 2024. We applaud your leadership for ensuring this included a two-year extension of the CARES Act authority that allowed employers and health plans to provide coverage for telehealth services on a pre-deductible basis for the more than 32 million Americans with a high-deductible health plan coupled with a Health Savings Account (HDHP-HSA) through December 31, 2024. However, to ensure patient access does not lapse, Congress must act to renew this access well in advance of the statutory deadline.

The *Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023* is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would ensure this critical telehealth flexibility continues on a permanent basis beyond the 2024 extension. In June, the House Ways & Means Committee advanced this crucial legislation and we write now to encourage the Senate to act as well. This commonsense policy has helped ensure families could access vital telehealth services – including virtual primary care and behavioral health services – prior to having met their deductible. In fact, according to a [survey](#) by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), about 96 percent of employers adopted pre-deductible coverage for telehealth services as a result of your leadership on telehealth.

The ability to offer pre-deductible telehealth services for employees is a meaningful expansion of health care access and is popular among consumers. Notably, according to unpublished estimates from EBRI, over 50 percent of individuals with an HSA live in zip codes where the median income is below \$75,000 annually. Over the past three years, this flexibility also enabled important expansions of access to care for individuals who may otherwise have neglected essential care due to high out-of-pocket costs. Further, a [survey](#) by NORC and AHIP found that “73 percent of commercial telehealth users said Congress should make permanent the provisions that allowed for coverage of telehealth services before paying their full deductible.”

It is imperative that Congress act to make this policy permanent to ensure that the millions of Americans with employer-sponsored coverage do not lose access to this pre-deductible coverage of telehealth services. The undersigned organizations strongly encourage you to advance the *Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023* to ensure individuals with HDHP-HSAs can continue to access virtual care services on a pre-deductible, permanent basis beyond 2024.

Sincerely,

Active Minds  
AiArthritis  
AlediumHR  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Connected Care  
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy  
Alliance to Fight for Health Care  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
Amazon  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI)  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work  
American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Suicidology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Telemedicine Association  
American Urological Association  
Americans for Prosperity  
Amwell  
Assisted Recovery Centers of America (ARCA)  
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
ATA Action  
AXYS, the Association for X and Y Variations  
Bellin and Gundersen Health System  
Bicycle Health  
Billings Clinic  
Brightline, Inc.  
California Health Care Coalition  
Cancer Support Community  
Center for Telehealth and eHealth Law  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation  
CLL Society  
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients (CHAMP)  
Colorado Hospital Association Broadband Services  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Compassion & Choices  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Consumer Technology Association

Convenient Care Association  
CopilotIQ  
Cromford Health  
Curai Health  
Cure CMD  
Deerbrook Counseling Services  
Dermatologist On Call  
Digital Medicine Society (DiMe)  
Directions in Independent living Compeer Program  
Dogtown Media LLC  
e-Facilis LLC  
eMed  
Employers Council on Flexible Compensation (ECFC)  
Encounter Telehealth, Inc  
eVisit  
ExamMed  
Face Haven Place PLLC  
Face Haven Place PLLC  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
FreedomWorks  
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)  
GenieMD, Inc  
Gilda's Club Kansas City  
GO2 for Lung Cancer  
Haystack Project  
HCU Network America  
Health Action Council  
Heartbeat Health  
Hello Alpha  
HR Policy Association  
HSA Coalition  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Identity Insights, LLC  
IMPOWER  
Included Health (formerly Doctor On Demand + Grand Rounds Health)  
Indiana University Health  
International Pemphigus Pemphigoid Foundation  
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans  
Kohnling, Inc.  
Let's Talk Interactive  
Lockton Companies  
Maine Primary Care Association  
Maryland Hospital Association  
Melanoma Research Foundation  
Mend VIP, Inc.  
Mental Health America  
Mercer

Michigan Neurological Association  
Miles for Migraine  
Modern Ritual Health  
Monebo Technologies, Inc  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
My Gene Counsel, LLC  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter  
National Taxpayers Union  
Nemours Children's Health  
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.  
NIM Longevity  
Noma Therapy  
Ochin  
Omada Health, Inc.  
Origin Healthcare  
Oshi Health  
Pandemic Patients  
Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage (P4ESC)  
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care (PAVC)  
PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine  
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation  
Population Health Analytics Association Incorporated  
PreciseMDX  
Premise Health Employer Solutions  
Primary Care Development Corporation  
QueerDoc, PLLC  
Reaching Out Counseling Services  
Reconnect4Health  
RxHomeTest  
Senior Care Clinic House Calls  
SLC6A1 Connect  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council)  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Soulful Recovery  
South Carolina My Care Team  
Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System  
Spesana, Inc.  
Spinal CSF Leak Foundation  
SSM Health  
St Mary Medical Center  
STXBP1 Foundation  
Superficial Siderosis Research Alliance  
Suquino, Inc  
Susan G. Komen  
Talkiatry  
Talkspace

TECHMEDO  
Teladoc Health  
TeleMed2U  
The Church Alliance  
The ERISA Industry Committee  
The University of Kansas Health System  
TheraTec, Inc  
Transcarent  
U.S. Pain Foundation  
University of Maryland Medical System  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System  
URAC  
UW Medicine  
Verato  
VerifiNow Inc  
Vestibular Disorders Association  
Virta Health  
Vistas Pediatric and Family Mental Wellness  
Vital Voice and Speech LLC  
Voice Products, Inc.  
Welliti  
Zipnosis