



September 17, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Alliance for Connected Care and the many patients and clinicians we represent, we write to support the Committee’s leadership in working to avert a pending telehealth cliff for Medicare beneficiaries and support bipartisan passage of the Telehealth Modernization Act of 2024 (H.R.7623).

We strongly support prompt action to ensure continued Medicare payment for telehealth – including audio-only, to avert catastrophic in-person requirements on mental health, and to ensure that a wider range of practitioners can leverage telehealth. We appreciate the Energy and Commerce Committee’s leadership in advancing language that would ensure fair reimbursement for virtual care at rural health clinics and federally qualified health clinics. We believe that the continuation of the acute hospital at home waiver flexibilities until 2029 will usher in a new era of home-based care, as technology-enabled care in the home drives better patient experiences and better health outcomes.

We appreciate and support the inclusion of several new digital health priorities – including allowances for in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation to help patients and the expansion of access to virtual diabetes prevention programs in Medicare.

While we strongly support increased data collection on the utilization and benefits of telehealth in the Medicare program, we do not believe that the proposal to require the use of a modifier for a practitioner that contracts with or works with a virtual platform to be workable. The policy outcome that this modifier would achieve also remains unclear and unjustified. Similarly, while we support the collection of data on the usage of incident to services in the Medicare program, we do not support the creation of a modifier that creates a double standard by treating clinicians providing telehealth services differently from clinicians providing in-person services.

Thanks to your leadership, patients and clinicians may have more certainty in their access to health care services. We look forward to continuing to support broader efforts to ensure permanent access to telehealth and other forms of virtual care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Chris Adamec
Executive Director
Alliance for Connected Care