

September 13, 2022

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

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

Dear Senators Schumer and McConnell:

Thank you for your continued leadership in expanding access to virtual care during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). This access has been transformational – patients now expect and often prefer telehealth as a key component of our health care system and providers have been able to reach many patients that previously had access barriers through virtual care.

These opportunities were made possible by the flexibilities and waivers under the current PHE. However, at the end of the COVID-19 PHE period, the clock begins to tick on the current 151-day statutory extension of telehealth waivers. While we appreciate these temporary extensions, the short-term nature continues to introduce significant uncertainty into our health care system. Providers must weigh the costs of investing in the technological and clinical infrastructure required to maintain telehealth programs at scale against the uncertainty of when these telehealth policies may end. Further, patients who utilize telehealth as part of their care plan face the possibility of a forced return to in-person care. This is particularly concerning for those utilizing telehealth to reach experts at longer distances, for access to mental and behavioral health practitioners, and those receiving ongoing remote care for chronic conditions.

Virtual care is now a fundamental part of the U.S. health care system, and it will improve patient access to high quality care and strengthen continuity of care well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. While many of the most compelling clinical use cases for virtual care are only now emerging, more communities than ever have experienced the powerful impact telehealth has had in bridging gaps in care. Telehealth is helping to address the crisis-level mental health, primary care, and other workforce shortages. Many underserved communities that historically have had limited access to care may now beam in additional support for their workforce as well as top specialists to help save lives and treat critically ill patients. Unfortunately, without statutory certainty for remote care the hard work of building infrastructure, trust, and relationships with these communities is beginning to stall.

As such, we urge the Senate to act this fall to ensure certainty for telehealth services. As demonstrated by the House – which passed the *Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act* (H.R. 4040) by a vote of 416-12 – telehealth is an overwhelmingly bipartisan issue. The Senate should act to pass a two-year extension of these important telehealth policies, while continuing to push for a permanent extension, that includes provisions to lift provider and patient location

limitations, remove in-person requirements for telemental health, ensure continued access to clinically appropriate controlled substances without in-person requirements, and increase access to telehealth services in the commercial market.

We look forward to working with you to provide certainty to our nation's health care providers and, more importantly, ensure communities across the country can continue to access care when and where they need it.

Sincerely,

100Plus

98point6 Inc.

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

ADHD Online

Adventist Health

Adventist HealthCare, Inc.

Advocacy & Awareness for Immune Disorders Association (AAIDA)

AlediumHR

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Connected Care

Alliance of Community Health Plans

Allina Health

Alpha Medical

Alpha-1 Foundation

ALS Association

Amazon

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

America's Essential Hospitals

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Home Care Medicine

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of PAs

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Clinical Neurophysiology Society

American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Gastroenterology

American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

American Gastroenterological Association

American Geriatrics Society

American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
American Heart Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Parkinson Disease Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Telemedicine Association
American Urological Association
AMGA
Amwell
Array Behavioral Care
Ascension
Aspire New Life, LLC
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP)
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)
Association of Oncology Social Work
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
ATA Action
athenahealth
Atlantic General Hospital
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
Avel eCare
Avery's Hope
AVIA
AvodahMed
AXYS
Babylon
Baptist Health
Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance
Behavioral Health Solutions
Bicycle Health
BJC HealthCare

BlueStar TeleHealth
Boston Children's Hospital
Bright.md
Brightline, Inc.
Business Group on Health
Byteflies
Cadence Solutions, Inc. & Cadence Health Florida, PLLC
California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)
Cancer Support Community Indiana
CancerCare
Care Compass Network
CareHive Health
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Telehealth, University of Mississippi Medical Center
Center to Advance Palliative Care
Cerebral, Inc.
Change Healthcare
Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC)
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
CHOC Children's Hospital
Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation
Circle Medical
Cleveland Clinic
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
CommonSpirit Health
Community Care Cooperative
Community Wellness
Compassion & Choices
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connected Health Initiative
Consumer Choice Center
Consumer Technology Association
Continuum Therapy Partners
Convenient Care Association
CopilotIQ, Inc
CPSI
Cromford Health
Curai, Inc.
Cure CMD
Curve Health
Cushing's Support & Research Foundation
CVS Health
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dedica Health LLC

Deerbrook Counseling Services, LLC
Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Diabetes & Endocrinology Consultants of PA, LLC
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
DialCare
DigitalOptometrics LLC
Dock Health
Dogtown Media
DreamCloud Psychiatry
Duke Health
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Educational Resolutions
eMed Digital Healthcare
Emergency Department Practice Management Association
Encounter Telehealth Inc
Endocrine Society
Envision Healthcare
Epilepsy Foundation
EPOWERdoc, LLC
Equum Medical
Espoir Global LLC dba Walomed
Everly Health
ExamMed
Executives for Health Innovation
Faith Regional Health Services
Favor
Federation of American Hospitals
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Firefly Health
Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA)
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Freespira, Inc.
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
Friends of Parkinson's, Inc.
GenieMD, Inc
Genome Medical Services, P.C.
Genome Medical, Inc.
Georgia Kidney Associates
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Gilda's Club South Florida Inc
GlobalMedia Group, LLC DBA GlobalMed
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Go2Care
Google

Greenway Health
GRIN2B Foundation
Gundersen Health System
Haystack Project
Hazel Health
HD Reach
Health Innovation Alliance
Healthcare Leadership Council
HealthLinkNow
Heart Failure Society of America
Heartbeat Health
Hemophilia Federation of America
HIMSS
HIMSS Electronic Health Record Association
HIMSS, Alabama Chapter
HIMSS, Midwest Gateway Chapter
HIMSS, Minnesota Chapter
HIMSS, New England Chapter
HIMSS, New York State Chapter
HIMSS, South Carolina Chapter
HIMSS, Wisconsin Chapter
Homeward
Hospice Action Network
Hudson Headwaters Health Network
HumanFirst
Humetrix
Illinois Telehealth Network
Included Health (formerly Doctor On Demand + Grand Rounds)
Indiana University Health, Inc.
Intel Corporation
International Foundation for AiArthritis
International OCD Foundation
Invitae Corporation
Johns Hopkins Medicine
Kidney Management Associates
KidneyCAN
knowRX Health
Kohnlinq, Inc.
Lanai Community Health Center
LeadingAge
LEAP Alliance
Life365, Inc.
LifePoint Health
LUNGevity Foundation
Maine Primary Care Association
Marani

Marley Medical, Inc.
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Mass General Brigham
Massachusetts Health Data Consortium
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science
MCCD Psychiatry
Medical Group Management Association
MEDICORHEALTH LLC
MedStar Health
MedWand Solutions, Inc.
Melanoma Research Foundation
Memorial Healthcare System
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Mend VIP, Inc.
MiCare Path
Michigan Neurological Association
Miles for Migraine
Mindstrong Health
Minnesota Hospital Association
Modern Ritual Health LLC
Moffitt Cancer Center
Monebo Technologies, Inc.
MPN Advocacy & Education International
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
Muscular Dystrophy Association
My Gene Counsel
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL)
National Association of Health Underwriters
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
National League for Nursing
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National PACE Association
Nebraska Medicine
Nemours Children's Health
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
New Hampshire Nurses Association
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
NIM Longevity
Nixon Gwilt Law

Nudj Health, Inc.
NuvoAir Medical PC
OCHIN
Oklahoma Hospital Association
Omada Health, Inc.
Omnicare
Oncology Nursing Society
One Medical
Orion Health Ltd.
Oshi Health
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage
Partnership to Advance Virtual Care
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
Pelorus Elder & Behavioral Health
Philips North America LLC
Population Health Analytics Association Incorporated
Premier, Inc.
Premise Health Holding Corp
Prevent Blindness
Prism Health North Texas
PursueCare
Pyramid Healthcare, Inc.
QueerDoc, PLLC
QuickVisit UC and QuickVisit NOW
Qure4u
Rady Children's Hospital – San Diego
REDC
ResMed Corp.
ResolutionCare, a Vynca company
Resurgica Health Solutions
Ro
RxHomeTest
Self Regional Healthcare
Senior Care Clinic House Calls
SHARE Cancer Support
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Professional Benefit Administrators
South Central Human Relations Center
Southcoast Health
Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine
Sparrow Health System
Stanford Children's Health

Stanford Health Care
Strive Orthopedics
STXBP1 Foundation
Summerside Health
Swing Therapeutics, Inc.
SWL Health Ventures
SYNERGIA Integrated Telebehavioral Health, LLC
SYNGAP1 Foundation
Talkiatry
Talkspace
TECHMEDO HEALTH
Teladoc Health
Telecare Anywhere
Teledentistry.com
Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma
Telehealth Alliance of Oregon
Telemynd Inc
The Center for Telehealth and eHealth Law (CTeL)
The ERISA Industry Committee
The Global Telemedicine Group
The Guthrie Clinic
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Language Group, LLC
The University of Kansas Health System
TheraTec, Inc
Third Eye Health
Tourette Association of America
Transcarent
Traverse Therapeutics
Tri County Internal Medicine, P.C.
Tri-State Memorial Hospital
Trinity Health
Trinity Rehabilitation Services
U.S. Pain Foundation
UC Davis Health
UCSF Health
United Disabilities Services
United Spinal Association
United States of Care
UnityPoint Health
University of Alabama Birmingham Health System
University of California Health
University of Maryland Department of Psychiatry
University of Michigan Health
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System
URAC

Utah Behavioral Healthcare Committee
UVA Health
Verato
Verily Life Sciences
Vesta Healthcare
ViewFi Health, Inc.
Virginia Commonwealth University Health System
Virtual Med Staff, LLC
Virtual Medical Services
VirtuSense Technologies
Visana Health
Vital Voice and Speech LLC
Walmart
Wizecare
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
Zipnosis
Zocdoc

cc:

The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Mike Crapo