

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chair, House Ways & Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member, House Ways & Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership on expanding access to virtual care and for your commitment to considering a pathway for permanent policy around telehealth beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency. We appreciate that the Committee is bringing the *Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023 (H.R. 1843/S. 1001)* forward as part of these conversations and write to urge you to advance this legislation to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

In December 2022, Congress took action to ensure certain telehealth flexibilities enacted at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic were extended for two years through the end of December 2024. We applaud the Committee 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.

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. This commonsense policy has helped ensure families could access vital telehealth services – including virtual primary care and behavioral health services – prior to having to meet 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 this pandemic-era provision.

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 Notably, according to unpublished estimates from EBRI, over 50 percent of individuals with an HSA live in zip codes where the median income is below \$75,000 annually.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 consider making 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,

Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators (AONN)
AlediumHR

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Connected Care
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
Alliance to Fight for Health Care
ALS Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Bankers Association Health Savings Account Council
American Benefits Council
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American Physical Therapy Association
American Portable Diagnostics Association
American Telemedicine Association
American Urological Association
Americans for Prosperity
America's Health Insurance Plans
AMGA
Amwell
Array Behavioral Care
Assisted Recovery Centers of America
ATA Action
AXYS, the Association for X and Y Variations
Bicycle Health
Billings Clinic
Business Group on Health
Business Roundtable
California Health Care Coalition
Cancer Support Community
Cancer Support Community Arizona
Cancer Support Community Delaware
Cancer Support Community Indiana
CancerCare
Care Compass Network
Caregility
CareSpan USA, Inc.
Centerstone
Church Alliance
CirrusMD Inc.
Coalition for Headache and Migraine Patients
Colorado Hospital Association Broadband Services
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
CommonSpirit Health
Compassion & Choices

Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connected Health Initiative
Connected Home Living
Consumer Choice Center
Consumer Technology Association
Convenient Care Association
Corporate Health Care Coalition
Council for Affordable Health Coverage
Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Cromford Health
Curai, Inc.
Cure CMD
Curve Health
CVS Health
Danielle Byron Henry Migraine Foundation
Dayamed
Deerbrook Counseling
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Dermatologist On Call
Diabetes & Endocrinology Consultants of PA, LLC
Digital Medicine Society (DiMe)
Directions in Independent Living
Dogtown Media LLC
e-Facilis LLC
Employers Council on Flexible Compensation (ECFC)
Employers' Advanced Cooperative on Healthcare
Encounter Telehealth
ExamMed
Executives for Health Innovation
EZaccessMD
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
GenieMD, Inc
Gilda's Club Kansas City
Gilda's Club Quad Cities
Gilda's Club South Florida
Global Liver Institute
GO2 for Lung Cancer
Go2Care
HCU Network America
Health Action Council
Health Innovation Alliance
HealthCare 21
Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthcare Leadership Council
HealthEquity, Inc.
Heartbeat Health

Hinge Health
HR Policy Association
HSA Coalition
Immune Deficiency Foundation
IMPOWER
Included Health (Doctor On Demand + Grand Rounds)
Intel Corporation
International OCD Foundation
IU Health
KJ Solutions
Klinica Consulting Group
Kohnling Inc.
Kroger Health
Lānaʻi Community Health Center
LifePoint Health
Lifespan
Lockton Companies
Maine Primary Care Association
MedWand Solutions Inc.
Melanoma Research Foundation
Mend VIP, Inc.
Mercer
Michigan Neurological Association
Midwest Business Group on Health
Miles for Migraine
MN HIMSS
Modern Ritual Health PC
Monebo Technologies, Inc.
Montana Academy of Family Physicians
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Taxpayers Union
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
NIM Longevity
Noma Therapy
Noom
OCHIN
Omada Health, Inc.
Onduo LLC
One Medical
Origin Healthcare
Oscar Health, Inc.
Oshi Health
Pandemic Patients
Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage

Partnership to Advance Virtual Care (PAVC)
PAs in Virtual Medicine and Telemedicine
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
Primary Care Development Corporation
Providence
Psychotherapy Action Network
QueerDoc
QuickVisit Urgent Care
Qure4u Health
REDC Consortium
RxHomeTest
Scripps Health
SHRM
Silicon Valley Employers Forum
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Society of Interventional Radiology
South Carolina My Care Team
St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Susan G. Komen
Talkspace
Teladoc Health
Telehealth Outreach for Unified Community Health-Telehealth Systems Consultants
The AIDS Institute
The Cheesecake Factory
The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
The ERISA Industry Committee
The Libre Initiative
Therapy Zone Incorporated
TheraTec, Inc
Traverse Therapeutics
Turner Syndrome Society of the United States
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Pain Foundation
United Leukodystrophy Foundation
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Health System
URAC
Verato
Virta Health
Visual Telecommunication Network, LLC d/b/a ViTel Net
Walmart
98point6