

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Greg Gianforte  
1222 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
202 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gianforte and Chairwoman Eshoo:

The undersigned organizations are writing in support of the *National Telehealth Strategy and Data Advancement Act*. We believe telehealth should be leveraged to provide care where and when patients need it and appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

For many years, the federal government has provided millions of dollars in grant funding toward projects focused on telehealth. The grants are funded through various federal departments, including the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, among others. While the investment in telehealth is positive, the widespread distribution of grant funds, without a central database to set data standards or house the data, impedes researchers' ability to synthesize the information gathered across these programs and build an evidence base to support expanded reimbursement. We find this lack of coordination concerning.

In order to create sustainability in the system and ensure grantees – usually in rural and underserved areas – are able to continue to serve their patients, your legislation will create a telehealth coordinating body that would set federal funding priorities across departments, research data reporting standards with the focus on the implementation, execution, application of telehealth and the relationship between these characteristics and data-driven performance, and make these data publicly available.

We believe the plan required by your legislation will generate evidence crucial to advancing reimbursement for these new technologies. This coordinated approach will better focus federal dollars on generating evidence to support expanded reimbursement - and allow researchers and federal agencies to access data to build the evidence base.

Thank you for your commitment to help ensure access to care for patients all across the country and we look forward to working with you to ensure the *National Telehealth Strategy and Data Advancement Act* becomes law.

Sincerely,

Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness  
Cambia Health Solutions  
College of Healthcare Information Management  
Executives (CHIME)  
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer  
Health Innovation Alliance  
InSight Telepsychiatry  
International OCD Foundation  
InTouch Health

LifeWIRE Corp  
Netsmart  
Neurotrack Technologies, Inc.  
New Directions Technology Consulting, LLC  
Oratel Diagnostics LLC  
Teladoc Health  
The ATA  
Virtual Physical Therapists