



May 1, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1102

Dear Senator Schatz:

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) applauds your leadership and reintroduction of the “CONNECT for Health Act.” This legislation represents a significant step forward toward enabling patients and providers to utilize the promise of telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) to improve healthcare quality, value, and patient care.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation’s healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs, to achieve their vision of a 21st century health system that makes affordable, high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC—hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, biotech firms, health product distributors, pharmacies, post-acute care providers, and information technology companies—advocate measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare by emphasizing wellness and prevention, care coordination, and the use of evidence-based medicine, while utilizing consumer choice and competition to enhance value.

HLC members have seen firsthand the value of telehealth to make the delivery of healthcare more efficient, effective, and patient-centric. HLC strongly supports the advancement of policies designed to promote and expand telehealth technology as a mode of care delivery that can improve quality as well as, alleviate access and workforce limitations, and improve consumer satisfaction.

HLC supported the “CONNECT for Health Act” in the 114th Congress and we are pleased to see an even more robust proposal for the current Congress. We are also encouraged by the inclusion of key provisions that HLC supported in the Senate Finance Committee’s work on chronic care legislation. HLC supports the expanded use of telehealth in alternative payment models and Medicare Advantage (MA), so we are also pleased that the bill will allow remote patient monitoring (RPM) to be used by

qualifying participants in alternative payment models and added to the basic benefits package for MA plans. HLC members believe that the expansion of access to home dialysis, telestroke options, and remote patient monitoring will benefit consumers immensely. Provisions that remove current statutory (Sec. 1834(m)) reimbursement restrictions will help move the Medicare program toward the broader goal of making telehealth accessible to patients and health professionals in a wider variety of circumstances.

We look forward to working with you on this important legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chris Adamec at cadamec@hlc.org or 202-449-3445.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary R. Grealy
President

Cc: The Honorable Roger Wicker
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable Mark Warner