



August 29, 2019

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters  
United States Senate  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Gardner and Peters:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to express our support for S. 773, the "Telehealth Innovation and Improvement Act." Thank you for introducing this important legislation that would expand telehealth delivery models through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.

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 healthcare 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, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

HLC is a strong supporter of using telehealth and remote patient monitoring to connect with patients across various locations to coordinate care. HLC members have seen firsthand the value of telehealth to make the delivery of healthcare more efficient, effective, and patient-centric. Telehealth can offer an alternative to traditional healthcare to treat basic, episodic medical conditions as well as chronic disease. Increased access to telehealth would make it easier for providers to treat patients and improve continuity of care by increasing access to medical care for those unable to travel and addressing provider shortages. We support 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 workforce limitations and improve patient satisfaction.

The Telehealth Innovation and Improvement Act is a step toward expanding telehealth services that improve quality of care, reduce costs, and improve healthcare outcomes. HLC supports reexamining restrictive reimbursement and regulatory barriers that make it challenging to use telehealth. This legislation would allow providers to test telehealth delivery models without regard to the limitations on the type of service provided, geographic areas or location of the patient. Further, this legislation would expand coverage and payment for certain enhanced

telehealth services that are certified as providing savings under the Medicare program and improving quality of care.

Thank you again for your work on S.773 and your efforts to expand telehealth to Medicare beneficiaries. HLC looks forward to collaborating with you on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Devon Adams at (202) 449-3445 or [dadams@hlc.org](mailto:dadams@hlc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Greal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary R. Greal  
President