

**Senate Bill 570 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Telehealth -  
Requirements  
February 23, 2017  
SUPPORT**

---

**Consumer Health First** (formerly the Maryland Women’s Coalition for Health Care Reform), is a nonpartisan, statewide alliance of thousands of individuals and one hundred organizations working to promote health equity through access to high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health care for all Marylanders. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for Senate Bill 570 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Telehealth - Requirements.

As part of the network adequacy recommendations that Consumer Health First submitted to the Maryland Insurance Administration, we noted that telehealth and other technologies provide a promising way to enhance consumers’ access to high quality, affordable health care. We support the use of telehealth and home monitoring technology for consumers who prefer this method of care.

It remains important, however, that Medicaid and private insurers not use telehealth as a way to bypass establishing and maintaining robust provider networks, to ensure that consumers who are not comfortable with telehealth can still have timely access to in-person care.

We particularly appreciate the requirement for the Department to publish a web page listing the providers who offer telehealth services. This will make it easier for consumers to select providers who meet their individual needs.

Consumer Health First asks for your support of Senate Bill 570 and urges a favorable report.