



December 18, 2013

The Honorable Doris Matsui
2434 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson
1710 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Matsui and Johnson:

We are writing to thank you for introducing the Telehealth Modernization Act of 2013 (H.R. 3750) and express our support of your commitment to addressing critical gaps in healthcare through innovative technology. We endorse your bill and support its enactment.

As you know, with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act there will be millions of Americans seeking access to an already burdened health care system where issues of primary care shortages, specialty care deficiencies, difficulty in attracting and retaining health professionals, and rural access challenges will continue to arise. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that to leverage innovative telehealth technologies to bridge these growing gaps in care.

The Telehealth Modernization Act provides states with guidance for developing common policies for providing Telehealth services. The current inconsistent patchwork of state laws governing Telehealth services has inhibited the deployment of telehealth in the private and public sectors. This bipartisan measure respects state regulation of the practice of medicine, and merely provides guidance for states on developing common telehealth policies. Telehealth, defined under the bill as the delivery of health care services by a licensed professional to a patient, from any location to any other location, by means of real-time, secure chat or email, or integrated telephony, is becoming a widely accepted practice across the United States and will continue to expand as new innovative technology are introduced to the market.

We applaud the legislation for fashioning principles consistent with the standard of care for in-person health care services as to ensure the safe and secure deployment and utilization of telehealth. Among these principles, the Telehealth Modernization Act promotes informed care through ensuring documentation and continuity of care for all telehealth encounters.

Thank you again for your support of telehealth and your recognition of the value innovative technologies will have on health, safety, and access.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel C. White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel C. White
Executive Director