



The following communication was sent to the health staffers of every United States Senator.

RE: Fixing Telehealth for Safety Net Providers

June 25, 2020

Dear _____,

I am writing to ask that Senator _____ consider cosponsoring the Improving Telehealth for Underserved Communities Act (S. 3998).

This legislation creates Medicare reimbursement parity between telehealth and in-person services for rural health clinics (RHCs) and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) for the duration of the public health emergency. This payment parity already exists for clinicians who are paid via the physician fee schedule, and we are hoping to extend that same logic to clinicians that work in RHCs and FQHCs.

The current policy requires RHCs and FQHCs to collapse 238 authorized telehealth services into a single code that reimburses a flat rate of \$92.03 which is significantly less than what RHCs and FQHCs would receive for providing most of those services in-person.

The Improving Telehealth for Underserved Communities Act would allow RHCs and FQHCs to use their normal coding and billing mechanisms for telehealth services with normal reimbursement rates in sync with what they would be paid in-person.

I have attached a one pager on this legislation with additional details. We hope to earn Senator _____'s support on this issue as Congress considers what the future of telehealth looks like.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nathan Baugh
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