



April 10, 2024

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Eshoo,

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and our nearly 40,000 members, thank you for holding today's hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Support Patient Access to Telehealth Services." The flexibility to provide remote care is not just a matter of convenience; it is a critical component of modern health care delivery, ensuring that patients receive timely and effective treatment. We appreciate the committee's attention to ensuring that this important tool remains a viable part of health care delivery moving forward.

Emergency physicians are particularly well-positioned to provide excellent telehealth services. Triage, diagnosing, and intervening in nearly any medical condition, and then connecting our patients with the follow-up care they need are skills that are naturally aligned with telehealth care delivery. As hospital emergency departments (EDs) are grappling with the issue of patient "boarding," where individuals wait for hours, often days, when there are no inpatient beds available, expanded utilization of telehealth services provides emergency physicians with another essential tool to help alleviate the strain of this growing public health crisis and potentially reduce ED congestion. By removing barriers to care through expanded telehealth flexibilities, physicians can meet patients in their homes, in other more appropriate or comfortable settings, or reach patients who might otherwise have limited access to the health care services they need and deserve. ACEP strongly supports the CONNECT for Health Act of 2023 (H.R. 4189), and we urge the committee to support this legislation and related efforts to secure a future where quality care is not confined by physical boundaries but is bolstered by technological advancement.

ACEP remains committed to advancing policies that promote access to telehealth for all patients and we look forward to working with the committee on this important issue. Once again, we appreciate your attention to these critical issues, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share our support. Should you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan McBride, ACEP Congressional Affairs Director, at rmcbride@acep.org.

Sincerely,

Aisha T. Terry, MD, MPH, FACEP
ACEP President

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