



October 30, 2019

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
S-208, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schatz, Wicker, Cardin, Thune, Warner, and Hyde-Smith,

On behalf of the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), I commend you for introducing the Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act of 2019. MGMA strongly supports this important legislation that expands coverage for telehealth services by lifting several restrictive coverage requirements for these services that improve patient care.

MGMA is the premier association for professionals who lead medical practices. Since 1926, through data, people, insights, and advocacy, MGMA empowers medical group practices to innovate and create meaningful change in healthcare. With a membership of more than 55,000 medical practice administrators, executives, and leaders, MGMA represents more than 15,500 organizations of all sizes, types, structures and specialties that deliver almost half of the healthcare in the United States.

Telehealth technology has the potential to be a cost-effective and quality-focused method for delivering medical services to millions of Medicare beneficiaries, yet it is greatly inhibited by Medicare's coverage requirements, including geographic limitations on originating sites and limitations on covered services. By waiving geographic restrictions to expand use of telehealth for mental health and emergency care services, as well as improving the process for adding telehealth services and waiving restrictions during national emergencies, the CONNECT for Health Act of 2019 would advance telemedicine's goals of improving patient access and reducing costs.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and MGMA stands ready to work with you and your congressional colleagues to ensure swift passage of this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please contact Claire Mansbach at cmansbach@mgma.org or 202-293-3450.

Sincerely,

/s/

Anders Gilberg, MGA
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs