



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

May 24, 2022

Mr. Ben Steffen
Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

RE: Study Request – Expansion of Interstate Telehealth

Dear Mr. Steffen:

The Health and Government Operations Committee (Committee) requests the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) to convene a workgroup to study the issues presented in House Bill 670, *Maryland Health Care Commission – Study on Expansion of Interstate Telehealth*, and to make recommendations on ways interstate telehealth can be expanded to allow State residents to use telehealth to receive health services from out-of-state providers.

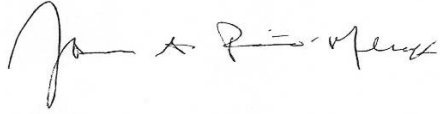
The Committee supported the expanded use of telehealth that occurred during the COVID-19, Public Health Emergency. Patients and health care practitioners have become accustomed to using telehealth and its use has become a standard in many practices. The Committee is interested in identifying the best approaches for enabling access to telehealth, protecting patients, and ensuring an adequate supply of health care providers to Maryland residents. The Committee requests that MHCC convene a workgroup composed of affected stakeholders to discuss challenges and identify solutions with out-of-state providers delivering telehealth services. The Committee requests that the workgroup provide specific recommendations on the following questions:

- (1) How to address the health insurance coverage and medical liability issues associated with the use of out-of-state practitioners through telehealth?
- (2) Are interstate health compacts sufficient for expanding the use of interstate telehealth?
- (3) Whether Maryland should alter its licensure practitioner requirements to further the availability of telehealth services while continuing to protect patients and, if so, how?
- (4) What impact will promoting out-of-state telehealth have on Maryland practitioners?

(5) Other policy issues that the workgroup considers relevant to expanding access to telehealth services.

The Committee requests the workgroup identify statutory changes that are needed to allow Maryland residents to receive health services from out-of-state practitioners. The Committee seeks recommendations from MHCC by December 1, 2023. Please let the Committee know as soon as possible if MHCC would be willing to undertake this task and contact Lisa Simpson, Committee Counsel, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk