



December 5, 2017

The Honorable Mike Thompson
United States House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diane Black
United States House of Representatives
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregg Harper
United States House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support Letter for Medicare Telehealth Parity Act

Dear Representatives Thompson, Black, Welch and Harper:

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) and the Association for Executives in Healthcare Information Technology (AEHIT) are pleased to support H.R. 2550, the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act of 2017. The legislation would expand the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring services under Medicare.

CHIME is an executive organization serving more than 2,400 chief information officers (CIOs) and other senior health information technology leaders at hospitals and clinics across the nation. CHIME members are responsible for the selection and implementation of clinical and business technology systems that are facilitating healthcare transformation. Recognizing the unique challenges that healthcare technology executives face, AEHIT was launched in 2014 for healthcare's senior technology leaders. AEHIT aims to advance the role of chief technology officers (CTOs) in healthcare organizations by supporting policy focused on providing better patient care through technological innovation. Our CHIME and AEHIT members represent some of the earliest and most prolific adopters of electronic health records (EHRs) and other health IT resources, such as telehealth, for clinicians and patients.

Telehealth technologies offer a multitude of benefits to patients and clinicians. Our members believe that telehealth brings value to the entire delivery system. Increasingly our members are leveraging telehealth and remote monitoring services in a variety of ways to meet patient care needs. CHIME and KLAS Research conducted a detailed study earlier this year of 104 organizations currently administering telehealth programs. Some of the key findings include:

- 59 percent of respondents identified reimbursement as the biggest factor limiting expansion of telehealth services
- 34 percent of respondents noted cost or resources as a factor limiting expansion of telehealth services

College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)

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- 59 percent of respondents cited improved patient access as a benefit of telehealth
- 35 percent of respondents cited improved clinical outcomes as a benefit of telehealth

CHIME and AEHIT members appreciate your interest in expanding access to telehealth and remote patient monitoring technologies and are pleased to endorse the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act. Adequate reimbursement for hospitals and other healthcare providers for employing such services is a complex and evolving issue and, thus, has been a barrier to standardizing the provision of these valuable services. Unfortunately, efforts to revamp the federal telehealth policies have lagged behind both state and private payers.

We appreciate leadership on this subject and applaud the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act. We stand ready to work together to pursue legislative solutions that will expand access to telehealth services for the nation's patients. Should you have questions or if we can be of assistance to advance this important legislation, please contact Leslie Krigstein, Vice President of Congressional Affairs, at krigstein@chimecentral.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell P. Branzell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Russell" and last name "Branzell" clearly legible.

Russell P. Branzell, CHCIO, LCHIME
President and CEO
CHIME