



October 30, 2019

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Schatz, Wicker, Thune, Cardin, Warner, and Hyde-Smith, and Representatives Thompson, Welch, Schweikert, and Johnson:

On behalf of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and the Personal Connected Health Alliance (PCHAlliance), we write today to express our strong support for the *CONNECT for Health Act of 2019*. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will make critical improvements to the Medicare program by expanding access to evidence-based telehealth services to better meet the needs of Medicare beneficiaries.

HIMSS is a global advisor and thought leader supporting the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology. As a mission driven non-profit, HIMSS offers a unique depth and breadth of expertise in health innovation, public policy, workforce development, research and analytics to advise global leaders, stakeholders and influencers on best practices in health information and technology. Our members include nearly 80,000 individuals, 475 provider organizations and 650 health services organizations.

PCHAlliance, a membership-based HIMSS Innovation Company, accelerates technical, business and social strategies necessary to advance personal connected health and is committed to improving health behaviors and chronic disease management via connected health technologies.

Evidence-based telehealth can help improve access to high-quality care for many Medicare beneficiaries and address many accessibility issues that underserved areas and beneficiaries often face. In today's healthcare environment, outdated and overly burdensome restrictions on the use of telehealth and other healthcare technologies under Medicare continue to limit the potential and impact of these valuable tools and services for health care providers.

The CONNECT for Health Act of 2019 will bring much needed changes to the Medicare Program by removing many of these artificial barriers. Specifically, this legislation will expand access for mental health services through telehealth, remove arbitrary geographic and originating site limitations, support greater utilization of telehealth during national emergencies, and address other important aspects to expand access to quality healthcare.

For the reasons above, we strongly support this bill. We look forward to working with you to see these critical reforms enacted and improve the health and health outcomes for all Americans. Thank you for your hard work and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Harold F. Wolf III, FHIMSS
President & CEO
HIMSS



Steve Wretling
Chief Technology and Innovation Officer
HIMSS (on behalf of PCHAlliance)