

June 19, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Axne
United States House of Representatives
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Axne:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) writes in support of the Knowing the Efficiency and Efficacy of Permanent (KEEP) Telehealth Options Act of 2020.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth has provided a critical way for patients to continue to access needed care. We greatly appreciate the flexibilities implemented during the public health emergency, as they have allowed hospitals and health systems to care for patients in the comfort and safety of their own homes. As a result, they have been able to provide care for more patients and reduce potential exposure to COVID-19-positive patients for health care professionals and the public. This legislation would require the Department of Health and Human Services and Government Accountability Office to conduct studies to provide information about the expanded use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional data on telehealth uptake and usage is critical to help inform changes that will need to be addressed going forward to ensure patients can continue to access care through telehealth.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working together to ensure passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas P. Nickels
Executive Vice President

