

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

September 26, 2025

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

Expanded Medicare coverage for telehealth services is set to expire on September 30, 2025. As you work toward an appropriations package, we urge an inclusion of an extension of the Medicare telehealth flexibilities for as long as possible to ensure that all Medicare beneficiaries do not lose access to these critical services.

Telehealth plays a critical role in health care delivery – a fact that Congress has recognized by expanding coverage during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency. Most recently, in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Congress enacted a six-month extension of Medicare telehealth services coverage. Committees of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives had previously recognized the need to protect patients’ access to telehealth services by voting to advance an additional two-year extension on a bipartisan, unanimous basis.

As you consider next steps, we urge you to prioritize provisions that:

- **Permanently remove geographic restrictions** on telehealth services and allow the home and other clinically appropriate sites as originating locations.
- **Expand the list of eligible practitioners** who may furnish telehealth services.
- **Recognize federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics** as telehealth distant site providers.
- **Allow telehealth use in hospice recertifications.**
- **Permanently repeal the six-month in-person visit requirement for telemental health services** and reject similar restrictions that create unnecessary barriers to care.
- **Extend audio-only flexibilities for telehealth services.**

Telehealth provides essential access to care and improves outcomes, including reduced emergency department utilization and improved medication adherence.<sup>1</sup> Medicare beneficiaries have come to rely on expanded access to telehealth services and are satisfied with the care they receive.<sup>2</sup> While there is overwhelming support for Congress to enact permanent telehealth legislation, we must provide patients and clinicians with long-term certainty to support continued investment in technology and clinical models to meet the evolving health care needs of Medicare beneficiaries. We appreciate your collaboration and leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to ensure access to telehealth services is retained past September 30.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



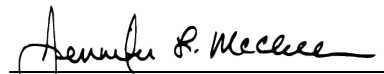
Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



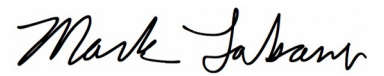
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



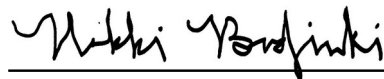
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



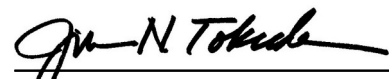
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



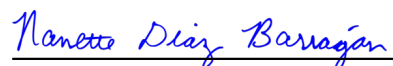
Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> Carter H. Nakamoto, David M. Cutler, Nancy D. Beaulieu, Lori Uscher-Pines, and Ateev Mehrotra. “The Impact Of Telemedicine On Medicare Utilization, Spending, And Quality, 2019–22.” *Health Affairs* 43, no. 5 (April 2024): 691-700, <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2023.01142>.

<sup>2</sup> Brian O'Donnell, Ledia Tabor, “Telehealth in Medicare: Status Report” (presentation, Advising the Congress on Medicare Issues, April 11, 2024.”



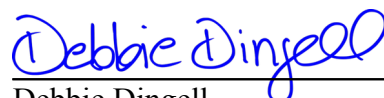
Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



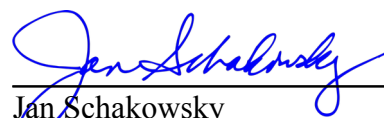
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



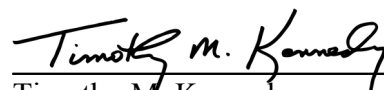
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
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Jan Schakowsky  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Timothy M. Kennedy  
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Bill Foster  
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Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



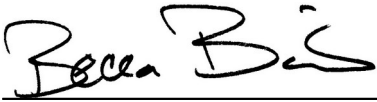
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



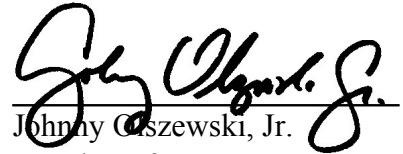
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



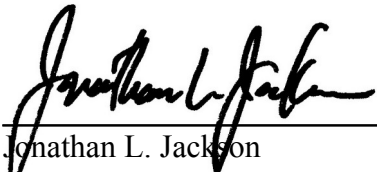
Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



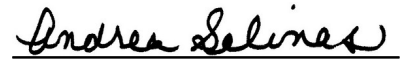
Mike Quigley  
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Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



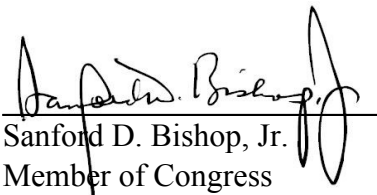
Andrea Salinas  
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



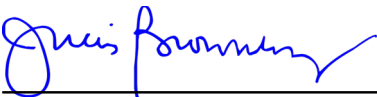
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



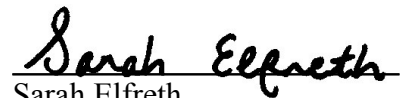
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



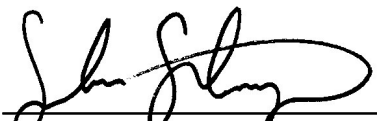
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



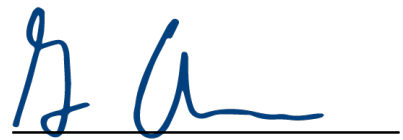
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



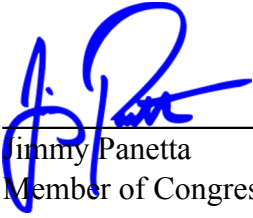
Sarah Elfreth  
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Suhas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress

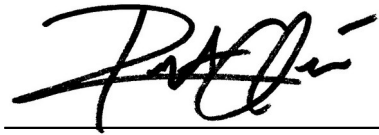


Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



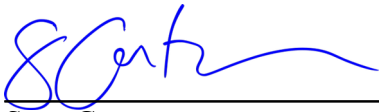
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Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



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Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress



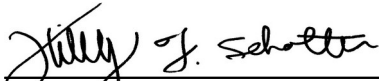
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



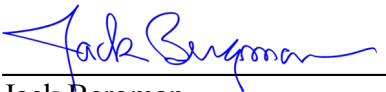
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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



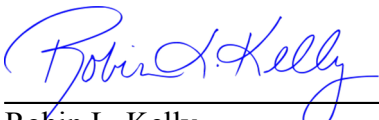
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Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



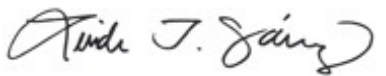
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George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



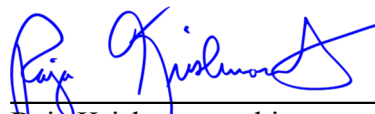
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



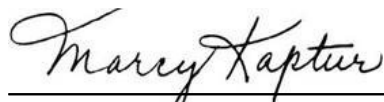
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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



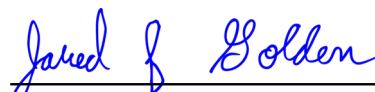
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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



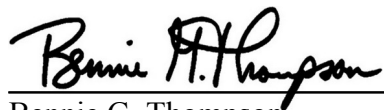
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Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress



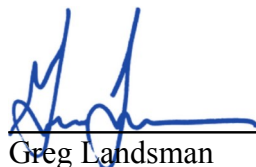
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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



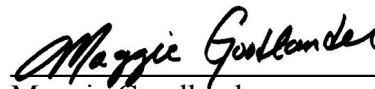
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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



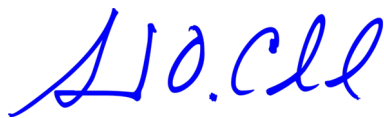
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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



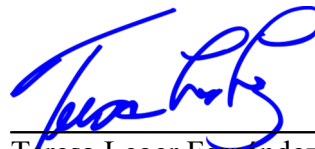
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Maggie Goodlander  
Member of Congress



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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



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Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



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Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress