



# Protect Patients' Access to Care: Extend Telehealth Flexibilities and Support Medicaid

## BACKGROUND

Millions of Americans, particularly in rural and underserved communities, rely on Medicaid coverage to ensure access to critical health care services. Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) cover around two in five children in the U.S. including 2.3 million children with disabilities, as well as more than 40% of all births.

More than 7 million seniors are enrolled in Medicaid, and it pays for services for two in three nursing home residents. Also, more than 12 million people with Medicare are dually eligible for Medicaid, which helps cover out-of-pocket costs. Enhanced Medicare telehealth flexibilities have also robustly benefited those communities, as well as seniors nationwide, who might face barriers to accessing in-person care, such as transportation challenges, geographic distance, or weakened immune systems.



## PROBLEM



Medicaid reform in the coming budget resolution could jeopardize access to care for the most vulnerable of our patients.

In addition, current Medicare telehealth flexibilities are due to expire on September 30, 2025. Absent Congressional action would leave many patients unable to continue their current treatment plans or access the care they need.

## SOLUTION



We ask Congress to continue its history of bipartisan support for telehealth by extending Medicare telehealth flexibilities. While we support a permanent extension of vital telehealth services, we urge your support of at least a two-year extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities that were extended in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.



In addition, as the majority of DOs practice in primary care and often serve in rural and underserved communities, we ask that you protect access to Medicaid for the most vulnerable of our patients.



Protect Patients' Access to Care by Extending Telehealth Flexibilities Support Medicaid