



April 22, 2025

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Schatz and Wicker:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 197,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students we represent, we thank you for introducing the "*Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act of 2025*." We applaud your leadership and strongly support your efforts to preserve expanded access to care and promote cost savings and quality care through telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) services in Medicare.

Osteopathic physicians focus on prevention through gaining a deeper understanding of our patient's lifestyles and environment. Partnering with our patients in their care is at the heart of our whole-person, collaborative approach to medicine, and clinically appropriate telehealth flexibilities help physicians provide more comprehensive care.

Telehealth expansion during the COVID-19 public health emergency and its subsequent extensions have established a critical lifeline for communities throughout the U.S. Telehealth has proven to improve access to care for more than 30 million Americans in Medicare, especially those in rural and underserved communities, by reducing disruptions in care and easing patient monitoring. It has also been proven to be effective in increasing patient retention for those in treatment for substance use disorder (SUD).¹ This legislation will preserve increased access to care and improved care management by making permanent telemedicine expansion.

Again, thank you for your dedicated leadership on this issue. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing the enactment of this important legislation. If you have any questions or if the AOA can be a resource, please contact AOA Vice President of Public Policy, John-Michael Villarama, at jvillarama@osteopathic.org.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Hubka, DO, FACOOG (dist.)
President, AOA

Kathleen S. Creason, MBA
Chief Executive Officer, AOA

¹ Lin et. al. "Telemedicine-delivered treatment interventions for substance use disorders: A systematic review". *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 101 (2019) pg. 38-49