



Physicians Caring for Texans

Oct. 9, 2020

The Honorable John Cornyn  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
127A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

*Re: Texas Medical Association support of S.4375, the Telehealth Modernization Act of 2020.*

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz:

On behalf of our more than 53,000 Texas physician and medical student members, the Texas Medical Association (TMA) writes offering our full support for S.4375, the Telehealth Modernization Act of 2020. We respectfully request you co-sponsor this bill and help ensure its passage.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has proved that Medicare beneficiaries and practicing Texas physicians have the capabilities and interest in offering telehealth services. S.4375 significantly improves Medicare telehealth coverage by eliminating the 1834(m) statutory restrictions on originating site and geographic location. Doing so allows Medicare beneficiaries to receive telehealth services regardless of location.

Telemedicine allows physicians to provide care to patients while supporting physical distancing efforts and reducing the spread of infectious diseases by avoiding unnecessary outpatient visits. These technologies allow physicians to increase continuity of care, extend access beyond normal clinic hours, and help overcome clinician shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas. For patients, telemedicine makes it more likely they'll obtain cost-effective preventative and primary care because they can save time traveling to and from physician offices.

The success of telehealth technology adoption during the COVID-19 pandemic has made it abundantly clear that this technology should be available to all Medicare patients regardless of location or mode of access.

TMA looks forward to seeing this legislation enacted. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and offer our support of this bill. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dan Finch, TMA vice president of advocacy, at [dan.finch@texmed.org](mailto:dan.finch@texmed.org).

Sincerely,

Diana L. Fite, MD  
President  
Texas Medical Association