



3 March 2021

Dustin Holfinger,
American Heart Association
HB 122 – Proponent Testimony
Ohio House Insurance Committee

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA) and its more than 40 million volunteers and supporters from across the country, we thank you for what you have done so far in responding to the needs of citizens affected by COVID-19, especially those who are most vulnerable. Your work is not going unnoticed.

We also sincerely appreciate your concern about access to healthcare throughout our state and ask that you continue that by swiftly hearing and approving House Bill 122 for passage. This bill, with overwhelming support in the public health community, would improve access to health care and lower costs by permanently expanding telehealth in Ohio.

As a result of the current pandemic and some patients still nervous to venture out, many Ohio physicians, of which quite a few are on the AHA Boards across the state, have taken the opportunity to safely provide care via telehealth. House Bill 122 is a big step forward in expanding health care access in Ohio, and I hope it will pave the way for a more advanced, modern health care system that can better meet the needs of patients and providers. We know from years of research that telehealth can greatly improve access to care, lower costs, and increase flexibility for patients and providers.

Our organization is pleased to offer our support of HB 122. Should you have any questions regarding our suggestions for amendments to the bill, please contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D.A. Holfinger".

Dustin A. Holfinger
State Government Relations Director,
American Heart Association