

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Thomas E. Brinkman Jr.
House Insurance Committee
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 122 Letter of Support

Dear Chair Brinkman, Vice Chair Lampton, and House Insurance Committee Members:

On behalf of the American Kidney Fund, and all of the patients that we serve in Ohio, we are writing to respectfully ask for your support of [HB 122](#), which will define the practitioners, services, cost-sharing, and reimbursement standards associated with telehealth in Ohio.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) is the nation's leading nonprofit organizations working on behalf of the 37 million Americans living with kidney disease, and the millions more at risk, with an unmatched scope of programs that support people wherever they are in their fight against kidney disease, from prevention through transplant. With programs that address early detection, disease management, financial assistance, clinical research, innovation and advocacy, no kidney organization impacts more lives than AKF. We are also one of the nation's top rated nonprofits, investing 97 cents of every donated dollar in programs, AKF has also received the highest 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for 19 consecutive years, as well as the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar.

To Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients, telehealth is an important care delivery method for improving access in underserved Ohio communities, particularly rural areas, areas with physician shortages and other healthcare services. Telehealth can help reduce gaps in access to services and care, including access to primary care and specialized providers when in-person visits are not a safe or feasible option.

With constantly evolving medical technology, legislation is needed to appropriately regulate this growing service in Ohio. Telehealth is not a replacement for traditional healthcare, but rather an enhancement. We can expand healthcare treatment options in Ohio while maintaining high standards of care and patient protections.

HB 122 will help regulate the rapidly growing use of telehealth in Ohio, and encourage its continued adoption and use, beyond the COVID pandemic. Telehealth services should be available for patients to the same extent that a plan covers in-person healthcare services, and without forcing a patient to pay a higher cost-sharing amount. To that end, we ask for your support on HB 122.

Thank you in advance for your time and for your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions or would like any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly at lgill@kidneyfund.org.

Sincerely,

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