

March 3, 2021 Ohio House Insurance Committee
Proponent Testimony – HB 122, Telehealth Services
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As a Radiation Oncology physician who before the pandemic saw most of his patients with in-person appointments, I am interested in seeing HB 122 pass in Ohio and coverage of telehealth visits consistent with in-person visits. I personally changed my opinion when I was able to connect with my patients literally in the comfort of their own home. I saw an elevation in patient satisfaction and compliance with screening and follow up studies. This was critical during the Covid-19 pandemic.

My colleagues and I are now investigating the actual level of patient satisfaction to potentially build a clinical trial to demonstrate clinical validity. [We look forward to its results.](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed greater burdens on cancer patients and their providers, but it has also revealed the critical role telemedicine can play in cancer care. A survey from ACS CAN earlier this year found that more than half (54%) of cancer patients and survivors had an in-person medical appointment disrupted because of COVID-19. Many of these patients and their providers have turned to telehealth appointments to continue their care. Of those patients who have used telehealth, an overwhelming majority (95%) found virtual appointments useful because it allowed them to speak with their provider sooner than waiting for a rescheduled in-person visit.

The real-world application of telehealth services will continue to face challenges and limitations in the years ahead, but the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of updated and adaptable telehealth policies. It is critical that Ohio's cancer patients be allowed to reap the optimal benefits of telehealth