

Memorandum to Chairman Brinkman, Ranking Member Miranda, and House Insurance Committee Members Expressing Support for H.B. 122 and Telehealth

From: Teresa Lampl, CEO of the Ohio Council

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Subj: Written Testimony on H.B. 122

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council) I am pleased to share with the House Insurance Committee our support for H.B. 122. And I want to thank Representatives Mark Frazier and Adam Holmes for their efforts to develop and advance this bill through the legislative process.

As the committee knows, Ohio has experienced social disruption and economic devastation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nimble and effective regulatory efforts at the state and federal levels promoting and expanding telehealth services allowed community behavioral health providers to continue serving Ohioans in need of mental health and addiction treatment services. Without such flexibilities and expanded telehealth authorities many providers would have been forced to close and in turn treatment capacity would have declined.

H.B. 122 would codify much of these new flexibilities and expanded authorities, including recognizing for reimbursement the fully panoply of the behavioral health workforce. Indeed, this legislative measure appears to strike the appropriate balance between regulatory oversight and the expansion of an effective healthcare delivery option.

Accordingly, the Ohio Council appreciates the committee's time and consideration of expanded telehealth services in Ohio and we are pleased to submit for the record our statement in support of H.B. 122.