



November 10, 2021

Chairman Steve Huffman
Senate Health Committee
1 Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman,

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP), thank you for the opportunity to offer written interested party testimony on House Bill 122, legislation regarding telehealth services and coverage in Ohio's commercial and Medicaid markets.

The Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) is the state's leading trade association representing the health insurance industry. OAHP's member plans provide health benefits to more than 9 million Ohioans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual insurance market, and public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Federal Insurance Marketplace. Our members offer a broad range of health insurance products to Ohioans in the commercial marketplace and are committed partners in public programs.

Telehealth is an important tool to help bridge access and affordability in healthcare, and health plans have been proactively championing and advancing innovative telehealth options for years. We know that consumers and employers are demanding access to telehealth options as they see the financial, time, accessibility, and other benefits it brings. OAHP believes it is important that telehealth policies are able to adapt nimbly to the ever-changing new technology that makes telehealth more and more effective and accessible.

COVID-19 has further highlighted the need for affordable, accessible telehealth options. Considering this further need, plans have implemented proactive plan specific telehealth initiatives to ensure access. Further, plans have implemented ODI's telehealth rules concerning coverage, which became effective January 1, 2021¹. In fact, many plans proactively implemented to rules prior to that date.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 122 on behalf of the more than 9 million Ohioans member plans provide health care coverage. Again, OAHP agrees with the intent and goals of HB 122, and we applaud the work and effort that the sponsors and this committee have put into this bill. We stand ready to work with policymakers to develop meaningful solutions that address access and affordability of health care.

Sincerely,

Kelly O'Reilly
President and CEO

¹ https://iop-odi-content.s3.amazonaws.com/static/Legal/Bulletins/Documents/2020-02_COVID-19.pdf