



**House Bill 122: Telehealth
Written Proponent Testimony
Dr. Melissa Piliang, MD - President
Presented to the Ohio Senate Health Committee
September 29, 2021**

The Ohio Dermatological Association (ODA) is grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 122, legislation concerning telehealth. This bill seeks to make some of the changes concerning how telemedicine services are delivered in Ohio that were made early in the COVID-19 pandemic into permanent statute.

As dermatology physicians, we are thankful to the general assembly for their consideration of telehealth legislation over the past year and a half. COVID-19 has demonstrated that making usage of telehealth easier for both physicians and patients is a valuable, convenient tool for increasing access to high quality care, particularly for underserved populations. Telemedicine visits gave our patients a necessary and safe way to receive care when normal delivery of care was unavailable or hazardous, and this method of care has had high satisfaction rates among both patients and physicians.

Last month, the State Medical Board of Ohio issued an updated FAQ document related to telehealth in the state. Along with guidance on usage of telehealth by providers, this document also advises on the Board's impending resumption of enforcement of laws and rules that require in-person visits in certain patient care situations after December 31, 2021. Due in part to the progress of HB 122 through the legislature, the Board has proactively started to revisit its telemedicine rules and to reach out to stakeholders for feedback.

We encourage that the committee support HB 122 as with this bill the legislature is uniquely poised to address this issue before the medical board's enforcement deadline at the end of this year. Telehealth is crucial in the future of medicine. Demand for healthcare is high, and utilization of telemedicine (while maintaining the standard of care) is one way we can move forward and help to meet the needs of Ohioans as our communities continue to work toward pandemic recovery and beyond.

Thank you and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions about this issue.