



September 13, 2017

The Honorable Diane Black
1311 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Brooks
1030 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Black, Brooks, Matsui, and Thompson:

Health IT Now, a broad-based coalition of patient groups, provider organizations, employers, and payers that supports incentives to deploy health information technology to improve quality, outcomes, and patient safety, and to lower costs, is writing in support of H.R. 3727, the *Increasing Telehealth Access in Medicare Act*. We appreciate your work to leverage technology to deliver care when and where patients need it.

Medicare lags the majority of other health payers – including Medicaid, the private sector, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program – in recognizing the promise of telehealth. Previous Congressional attempts to expand telehealth under Medicare have fallen short due to concerns about overutilization of care under Medicare’s traditional fee-for-service structure. Under this structure, there are powerful incentives for providers to bill Medicare for as many services as possible. Under Medicare Advantage’s payment system, however, that incentive is flipped on its head.

By allowing Medicare Advantage plans to include delivery of Medicare Part B services via telehealth in a plan’s basic benefits, your bill will allow a significant portion of Medicare beneficiaries access to services via telehealth.

We appreciate your work on this issue and look forward to continuing to work together to pass H.R. 3727.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel C. White".

Joel C. White
Executive Director