

**Telehealth  
Bill No. LCO No. 3614  
Testimony Submitted to the General Assembly  
July Special Session, 2020**

**Date: July 17, 2020**

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**Town: Moosup, Connecticut**

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee: My name is Beth Ober and I am the Board Vice-Chairperson and a patient of Generations Family Health Center. In the last few months, I have benefited greatly by using the telehealth services provided by Generations' Behavioral Health Department and Medical Department during this COVID pandemic.

In the beginning of April, I tested positive for corona and was put on isolation for two weeks. During this time, I had to call into both my primary physician, Dr. DiGeronimo, and my psychiatrist, Dr. Abramovich, to request medications and special care due to my contracting corona. I also used telehealth to reach out to my therapist, Carol, to help me deal with my anxiety and depression brought on due to my new diagnosis. My symptoms dragged on and on for approximately six weeks. Fatigue and difficulty breathing were my two main signs the virus was still with me. I made many phone calls into Generations to talk with Dr. DiGeronimo, Dr. Abramovich, my therapist, and even the after-hours hotline due to my anxiety. Medicaid, Husky D was available at this time to cover these costs due to the pandemic. I would have had to be hospitalized without the availability to reach these providers by phone. I did have to go to the Emergency Room twice during these six weeks due to other complications caused by the virus, and at three months later still suffer from shortness of breath with exertion, chronic fatigue, and intestinal problems. I also have had to reach out to my gastroenterologist and surgeon to help with these other issues. Without telehealth I would not have gotten the care and support I needed during this long, drawn-out-time dealing with the corona virus. Telehealth saved my life – to be able to reach out in my time of need – I was desperate and felt alone during that isolation period and without the ability to reach out to others to get the help and support I needed, it would have just sunk me further into my depression. With Generations and others Tele Media Help, I can say today that I am a corona survivor, and one day at a time, I am becoming stronger and stronger to fight the battle of this horrible virus.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Patients like me need to have access to telehealth care so that we can access care when we need it.

