

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a constituent, school law attorney, and parent, in support of telehealth therapy being covered by insurance. My husband and I have twin six-year-old boys who were born prematurely and require speech therapy and occupational therapy to close the gap with their peers. They receive those services from private therapists paid for by the district, as well as privately funded by our insurance.

Ever since the school closure due to the pandemic, our children have continued to receive daily speech services and occupational therapy services. In a time of extreme uncertainty with schooling, the teletherapy the boys have received has been their one constant and the only areas in which they have actually made progress rather than regressed. If it were not for the telehealth services being funded by insurance and the district, the boys would be in a catastrophic position when they start school again.

My husband and I have been so impressed with how engaging and effective the therapy is despite it being virtual. The amount of planning and time that the providers invest to make the lessons productive and meaningful is incredible. I have spoken with several providers and they all report that it takes them significantly more time to prepare successful and meaningful lessons for the children.

It is without any doubt that these services should continue to be funded by insurance and school districts were appropriate. In this unprecedented era, these types of services are more critical than ever and should be funded by insurance.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if you would like further comment or have questions.

Regards,
Emily Graner Sexton

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