

To whom this may concern:

I am writing a written testimony on behalf of the importance of telehealth coverage for speech therapy during Covid. I have two little girls who require speech therapy 5 times a week due to severe speech apraxia (which is rare for siblings to both have), if it were not for telehealth visits my girls would completely regress. We have been in therapy since my oldest was 19 months old, she is now six years four months so we have been working hard for quite a long time. The last thing we want is for her to regress in anyway. Telehealth has thankfully prevented that. During this unprecedented situation it makes no sense to a parent who has a child with special needs for services to stop virtually and be held in person. We should not have to risk our child's safety or our own for in person visits until this pandemic is under control. No one knows what the future holds with this virus when it's fall again and if the virus will ramp up again as predicted. I have a newborn at home and it would not be fair to myself or my children to be put in a situation where I would need to choose between my infants health and safety or the therapy my daughters desperately need. To all insurance companies please do not take away telehealth visits. You'll be affecting children and their families in a very negative way.

Sincerely,
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