



July 20, 2020,

The Honorable Senator Matt Lesser and Representative Sean Scanlon,
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Insurance and Real Estate
300 Capitol Ave, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairmen, Lesser, Scanlon, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut and this coalition, we would like to express our support for the ongoing availability of telehealth services and reimbursement for such by both private and public insurers. Nearly 50,000 individuals are living with epilepsy between Connecticut and Rhode Island (36,000 and 11,100 respectively) that depend on access to care including telehealth services without barriers. We **SUPPORT** AAC Telehealth and hope to continue working on this issue during the 2021 legislative session.

The expansion of telehealth services with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a huge benefit for individuals with epilepsy. Many people with epilepsy are not able to drive due to their seizures, and support from family or community resources is not always available, affordable, or appropriate.

A significant proportion of epilepsy patients struggle with attendance at their medical appointments, causing delays and disruptions in care (which can potentially lead to, of course, injuries, loss of life, or expensive emergency care). Many of these patients have fared better with telehealth and have shown better adherence to care.

The availability of telehealth visits also enables more frequent and more convenient visits for those who live in remote areas and requires less time off from work or school for the patient and the caregivers/drivers.

We hope that telemedicine will continue to be a readily available and reimbursable option for patients who have significant medical issues and transportation barriers, even after the resolution of this pandemic. Although this legislation takes significant steps in the right direction by extending access to and reimbursement for Telehealth services through next year, we hope for a more permanent solution that would allow patient access to Telehealth services for the foreseeable future.

If you have any questions please contact Mike Finley, CT Government Relations, at michael@epilepsyct.com or by phone at 860-346-1924.

We appreciate your attention to this important health-care system matter.

Thank you,

Mike Finley, Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut

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