

**Telehealth
Bill No. LCO No. 3614
Testimony Submitted to the General Assembly
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Town: Providence, Rhode Island

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee: My name is Molly Moran, and I am an APRN at Generations Family Health Center's Putnam site. Generations is a Federally Qualified Community Health Center that provides medical, dental, behavioral health and support services in eastern Connecticut. This part of Connecticut is extremely rural and lacks public or reliable transportation systems.

I have been having a very positive experience with telehealth. Not only does it eliminate my two-hour daily commute, leaving me more time for family and self-care, it has allowed me to have really productive conversations with my patients. I have a patient who is extremely anxious about leaving her home. When she comes into the office she is scattered, nervous, and often cannot focus on the task at hand. In the comfort of her home, we have been able to delve into issues that we never got to during office visits. She has opened up about things that she probably would not have in person. I have been able to connect her to Behavioral Health services, which she desperately needs, and can now access from home. Additionally, every day it looks more and more like children will not be returning to the classrooms (in Rhode Island, anyway). The flexibility of telehealth will allow me to keep caring for patients, even if my kids are going to be home.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Providers like me have had tremendous success with telehealth, and we need to make access this kind of healthcare permanent so that we can provide healthcare services to all of the residents in Connecticut.