

February 13, 2020

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

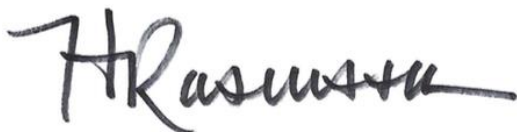
Our company offers telemedicine benefits to employees around the country, including serving more than 1,500 Maryland citizens, as part of an effort to provide improved access to quality health care that is convenient and affordable for both employers and employees.

Legislation currently pending in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee would have the positive effect of allowing patients and healthcare practitioners the option to use both synchronous and asynchronous telehealth interactions to establish a relationship during the initial telemedicine visit. I urge the committee to accept this language to give Maryland patients and providers a choice and maximize access.

Given that Maryland faces healthcare provider shortages in both rural and urban areas, it makes sense to maximize allowable technologies for the way in which healthcare practitioners can establish a relationship with patients. Broadband with speeds sufficient to carry a video signal are not uniformly available in Maryland, so restricting the establishment of the practitioner-patient relationship via telemedicine to audio-visual visits has a significant impact on the number of our employees who are able to access this benefit. The Committee has a tremendous opportunity in front of them to solidify good telemedicine policy in Maryland.

Please vote "yes" on SB 402 (Rosenberg) to ensure Maryland maximizes the types of technology that can be used in establishment of the patient-practitioner relationship when using telemedicine.

Thank you for your support,



Heidi Rasmussen  
COO & Co-Founder  
freshbenies